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Too many chiefs spoil cops' morale

By Martin P. Marfil

BUT won't too many generals spoil the broth of morale in the Philippine National Police?

The PNP now has three new deputy

TOO/A4

LIMA SINGKO NA ANG MGA GENERALS

100 YEARS LATER... The centennial of the end of the Fil-Am war is celebrated on Tuesday in Batangas City by students who dress up in the costumes of the world to signify their hopes and prayers for peace. President Macapagal graces the occasion at the provincial capitol where she also holds a Cabinet meeting.

EDWIN BACASMAS

IT'S FINAL

SC: $350-M Jancom deal legal

By Norman Bordadora

A VALID contract.

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled with finality on the $350-million incineration agreement between the government and Jancom Environmental Corp., but repeated its stand that the controversial contract needed the President's signature to become effective.

It also declined to pass judgment on whether the contract was advantageous to the government or not.

The resolution of the high court's third division upheld a Jan. 30 decision—also by the third division—confirming the contract's validity. "While the Court recognizes that the garbage problem is a matter of public concern, it can only declare that the contract in question is a valid and perfected one between the parties," the ruling read. ***(See related story, Page A24.)***

But the contract "is still ineffective or unimplementable until and unless it is approved by the President, the contract itself providing that such approval by the President is necessary."

SC/A4

US military studying Balikatan extension

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—US authorities are studying the possibility of extending the RP-US Balikatan 02-1, the commander in chief of the US Pacific Command announced yesterday.

"I believe that we need to continue to look at the situation and see the job that we set out to do in support of our allies here," Adm. Dennis Blair said at a press conference in the Southern Command headquarters. "We will evaluate all these proposals."

In the event that the joint military exercise scheduled to last until the end of July is extended, President Macapagal-Arroyo will not seek new terms of reference (TOR) to cover it.

"If I heard the President right, she is amenable to an amendment of the TOR," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said in Malacañang.

The President said on Monday that she favored the extension of the US military presence in Basilan because the residents themselves wanted it.

But even with talks on the possible extension of the military exercise aimed at stamping out the Abu Sayyaf, Blair said the US government had no plan to reestablish a permanent American military presence in the Philippines. He said US troops would leave as soon as the Abu Sayyaf was crushed.

Blair also said he was in "active discussion" with Philippine officials to bring in additional US military engineers to help in civic work in Basilan.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, confirmed this in Manila, saying Blair favored the deployment of US military engineers in the impoverished province "for the socio-economic development that should be pushed through as a priority project."

But Villanueva said the matter was best left to the Department of National Defense, "as well as the other political authorities including the Department of Foreign Affairs."

Villanueva and Blair had a meeting Monday at the Southcom headquarters.

"(The deployment of US engineers) was one of the things we talked about, but I told him that the approval

US/A19

Where Jesus was born now a battleground

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—The prolonged Israeli offensive in this town is threatening to turn the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ—once a bustling tourism center and one of the most peaceful towns in the area—into just another West Bank battleground.

In one part of that battleground, the Church of the Nativity, where some 200 Palestinians had barricaded themselves against Israeli pursuers, the war again took a turn for the psychological yesterday, with the Israeli army broadcasting ear-splitting noise straight at the church.

Outside the church complex, residents emerging from their homes during a break in the curfew imposed by the Israeli army viewed the situation with alarm.

"I could not believe what I saw outside today. Bethlehem used to be known as the calmest and most peaceful town in the West Bank," said Manaal Malzouka.

"We thought we could work with the Israelis and have peace before they came here. Now I would not be surprised if even the young Christian men in Bethlehem turn into suicide bombers," William Hazboun said.

Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel so far have all been carried out by Muslims.

During the five-hour curfew break, hundreds of people flocked to Bethlehem's groceries and bakeries, undeterred by the crack of nearby gunfire. Barbers swept up shat-

WHERE/A19

House to probe 'behest loans' to Emilio Yap and Dante Tan

By Juliet L. Javellana

A HOUSE committee is set to investigate alleged behest loans extended by government financial institutions to businessmen Emilio Yap and Dante Tan.

The investigation to be conducted by the House committee on good government stems from a resolution filed by Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said a report, which appeared in the Philippine Daily Inquirer business section, pointed out that the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) had exposures in the Manila Hotel which grew from P189 million in 1995 to P636 million at present. Yap acquired the historic hotel from the GSIS.

The P189 million in drawdowns were a series of four medium-term loans, with maturities of five years, extended by the GSIS before Yap took management of the hotel. All carried an identical 16-percent a year interest and a two-year grace period.

Gonzalez said he wrote to GSIS President Winston Garcia in July 2001 and got a "curt reply" that the GSIS had sent a series of demand letters but the "imperious Mr. Yap refused to pay and they are afraid of him."

Yap, also a newspaper publisher, was supposed to have paid the GSIS more than P636 million for 51-percent control of the Manila Hotel when he acquired it after a controversial bidding in 1995.

He lost in the bidding but managed to disqualify the win-

HOUSE/A19

DOH says rare disease in Ormoc not yet confirmed

By Armand N. Nocum
in Manila
Jhunnex Napallacan and Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

"THE DIAGNOSIS is not yet confirmed."

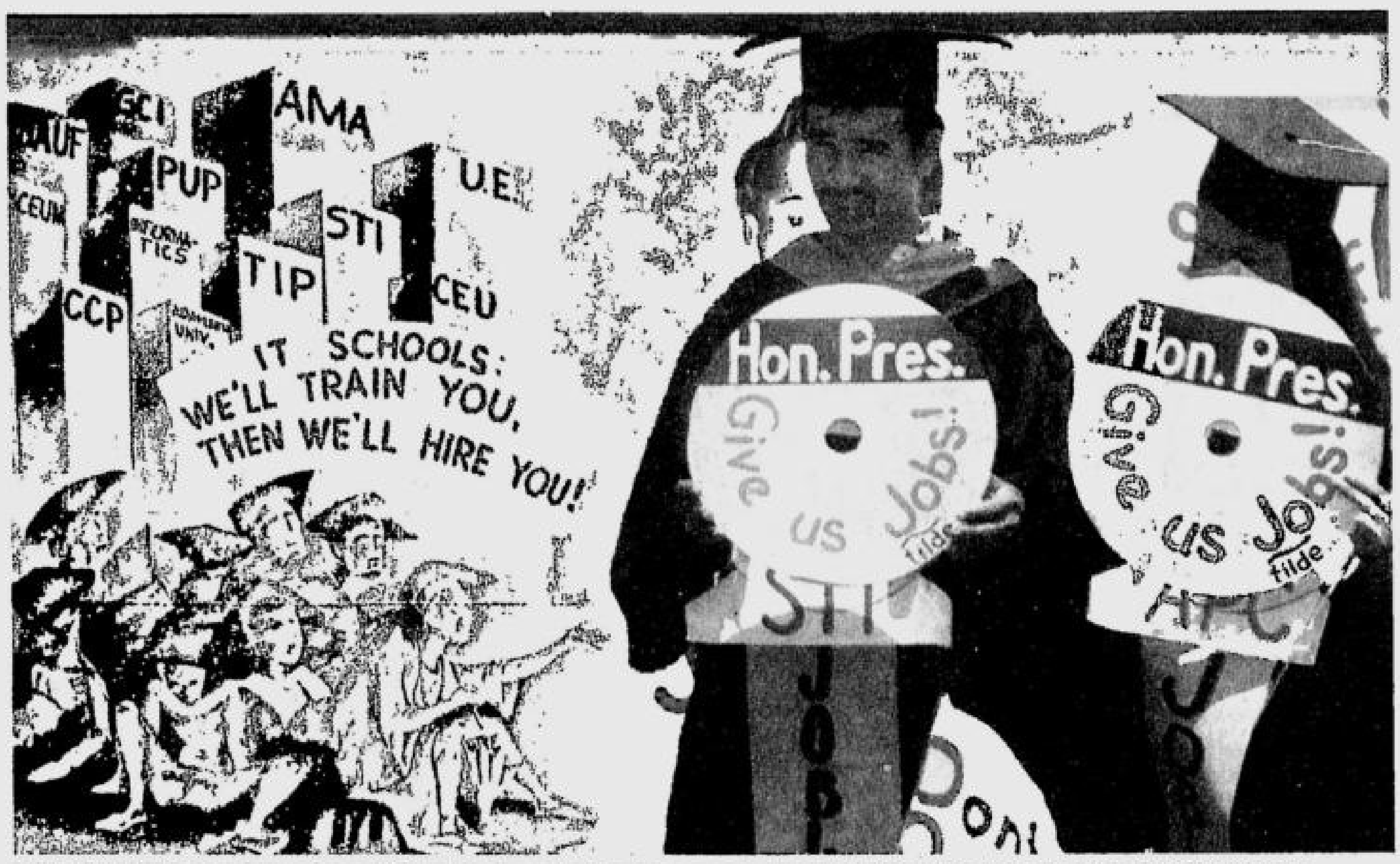
So, the Department of Health has advised people in Ormoc City not to panic over the reported outbreak of a rare disease that hit 12 young family members of the prominent Larrazabal clan.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said politicians from Ormoc had been calling him to relay reports that residents were in fear of a possible epidemic.

"People are panicking. We want to calm them down. There is no conclusive finding that the Larrazabal children were infected with the West Nile virus," Dayrit told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

There is no known antibiotic or vaccine against the rare West Nile virus, which was first detected in Uganda in 1936. No known case of this rare disease has ever been re-

DOH/A19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HELP WANTED: Graduates from different information technology schools rally in Mendiola to remind the President of her promise to create a million jobs a year for the next three years. With the unemployment rate now at a high of about 12 percent, it looks like there is no glory in the future of the 400,000 college graduates this year.

ERIK ARAZAS

Pope summons US cardinals to Rome over sex scandals

ROME—Pope John Paul II has summoned American cardinals to the Vatican to discuss the sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the US Roman Catholic Church.

Eight of the highest-ranking Roman Catholic clergymen in the United States will attend the meeting set for next week.

A special meeting of cardinals from just one country is extraordinary.

The meeting follows criticisms that the Vatican had shown a lack of leadership during a scandal affecting churches across the country and involving dozens of priests of all ranks—including some of the cardinals who will meet with the Pontiff at the Vatican.

A senior Vatican official said

POPE/A19

Second FRONT PAGE

GASTOS LANG YAN!

DEFYING MALACAÑANG

Joe de V favors con-con

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia Jr., who is the main proponent for Charter change in the House, favors a constitutional convention as the best way to propose amendments to the 1987 Charter.

De Venecia said a con-con would reflect the true will of the people rather than a constituent assembly composed of incumbent senators and congressmen.

"That (constituent assembly) will not be accepted by the people," De Venecia said, noting that legislators would have a credibility problem if they were the ones to propose amendments.

De Venecia, who is reportedly under pressure from Malacañang, which is opposed to Charter change, defended the legislators' move.

"We cannot kill a process," De Venecia said.

Education Secretary Raul Roco, who heads the Aksyon Demokratiko party, yesterday said the debate on constitutional amendments was "a costly distraction."

"The country needs more work and less talk. The Charter change will mean more talk and less work," Roco said in a press statement.

He said the congressional proponents of Charter change must show what it was that they wanted to do now that they could not do because of the Constitution, "something that will improve education, the economy or the people's welfare."

"Lifting term limits does not qualify," he said.

The House committee on constitutional amendments has already started the process of finding out what the public's preferences are on the issue—whether or not the Charter should be amended and how and what changes are necessary.

Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, the committee chair, said the committee would wrap up all public consultations on the issue within the year.

Legislators are divided on whether Charter change should be done through a constituent assembly or a con-con whose members would be elected for this purpose.

A survey by the committee on constitutional amendments showed that majority, or 75 of the 112 congressmen who responded to the survey, favored a constituent assembly while only 37 were in favor of con-con.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said a con-con would cost taxpayers at least P3 billion.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, another Charter change proponent, said that aside from being very expensive, a con-con was no guarantee that the "best minds" would be elected and that the process would be "insulated from politics."

Gonzalez said there would be no stopping politicians from working for the election of their children or relatives to the con-con.

But Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said that a con-con was the most democratic mode of Charter change.

Nachura will present the committee report seeking to convene barangay assemblies nationwide on May 6 to serve as a forum for Charter change.

But Nachura said he would propose that the assemblies be held after the barangay elections on July 15, after the new officials shall have assumed their posts by Aug. 15.

Gloria wants S. Tagalog split

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants to divide the Southern Tagalog (Region 4) into two distinct regions.

One region would consist of Calabarzon, i.e., Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

The other region, to be called Mimaropa, consists of Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.

According to a spokesperson, Ms Macapagal believed that a segregation would improve administration and delivery of services to these provinces.

She made the announcement during the Cabinet meeting yesterday in Batangas City.

"This is just a desire of the President that will (still) be subject to a wider consensus," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said in a news briefing.

But he said the President nevertheless directed the Cabinet to find ways to go about the segregation.

Engineer hunted for 'bomb scare'

POLICE are looking for an engineer from Cotabato City who has been identified as the primary suspect in the bomb scare that recently swept Metro Manila and other areas.

Rogelio Adamat, 41, a former employee of the International Labor Organization, was identified when his fingerprints matched those found on the envelope that concealed a bomb found on Taft Avenue in Manila.

A witness, police said, identified the suspect based on a photograph in police possession.

Officials of the Philippine National Police also said that Adamat was most likely "Fedrev," the spokesperson for the Indigenous People's Federal Army.

National Capital Region Command chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay said Adamat would be charged with illegal possession of explosives.

Police said that they would have him arrested once a warrant for his arrest if issued.

"Our evidence is based on careful scientific procedures and testimonies of credible witnesses," PNP chief Director Leandro Mendoza said.

"We expect him to appear and explain why he did it," Aglipay said.

Police records showed that Adamat was a graduate of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato, his birthplace. He traveled to Malaysia and Pakistan in 1999 and Saudi Arabia in 1990.

Asked if police have identified his cohorts, Mendoza said that this was still being processed by the intelligence services.

Aglipay said Adamat was involved in the campaign for indigenous peoples and this probably evolved into the IPFA.

He added that Adamat had a criminal record, taking a hostage in Manila.

Adamat could not be found in his residence in Cotabato and police believe that he is staying in Moro Islamic Liberation Front areas although they quickly denied Admat's involvement with the rebel group.

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Pakistanis wishing to cast their ballot personally may do so from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on 30th April 2002 at the Embassy premises, at 6th Floor, Alexander House, 132-Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila (Phone No. 632-8172772 & 817-2776). They are requested to bring along their National Identity Card or Pakistan passport and its photocopy.

Pakistanis wishing to cast their ballot by post, may apply for ballot papers to the Embassy immediately, on prescribed application forms. These application forms may be obtained from the above address personally, or, by writing to the Embassy at the above address or at P.O. Box 2050 MCC, Makati, Metro Manila, or, by conveying the applicant's address on fax numbers at (02) 8400229 and (02) 8931483, or, from the website of the Election Commission of Pakistan at www.ecp.gov.pk. In case a fax number is provided, the Embassy will fax the application form. The last date for submission of application forms is 20th April 2002. A copy of the National Identity Card or of the first three pages of the Pakistani passport should be sent along with the application forms. Application forms and requisite documents may be sent to the Embassy at above fax numbers, or by post, at the above address. Ballot papers will immediately be sent by post to the applicants.

Postal ballots, duly marked, by the voters, should reach the Embassy by 29th April 2002 at the latest.

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Trader wants out of plunder case

By Volt Contreras

A CO-ACCUSED in the plunder case against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to suspend the proceedings against him.

Victor Jose Tan Uy said he was denied due process by the Ombudsman's office which allegedly filed charges against Uy without a preliminary investigation or an inquiry to determine whether there was probable cause to indict him for plunder.

In a manifestation and motion filed by the his lawyers, Tan Uy claimed that his inclusion in the case was "premised on an utterly erroneous belief" that he goes by the aliases "Eleuterio Tan or Eleuterio Ramos Tan or Mr. Uy."

The name "Elueterio Tan" came up during Estrada's aborted impeachment trial as the one who cashed a P90 million check from the Land Bank. The amount was part of the P130-million tobacco excise tax kickback allegedly pocketed by Estrada.

But in December 2000, in the middle of Estrada's impeachment trial, then Senate President and blue ribbon committee chair Aquilino Pimentel said his panel found out that the names Tan and Uy referred to the same person.

Pimentel said Tan or Uy was an incorporator of Power Management Consultancy Inc., a company that was owned by Charlie "Atong" Ang, Estrada's friend and his co-accused in the plunder case.

State prosecutors entered the name Eleuterio Tan in the original complaint filed against Estrada and others in April 2001.

Gov't loses another case at Sandigan

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday dealt another blow to government efforts to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

The anti-graft court dismissed for lack of evidence a 1986 civil case filed by the government against spouses Manuel and Luz Bakunawa. The latter was once a personal aide of former first lady Imelda Marcos and is a former governor and congressman of Masbate.

The Sandiganbayan's First Division thus lifted the sequestration order on the Bakunawas' Masbate properties almost totaling 900 hectares, which was initially the subject of a land dispute between the couple and local farmers.

The case mainly alleged that the couple "took undue advantage" of their closeness to the Marcoses to illegally acquire the properties.

In a 34-page decision, First Division chair and Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said "there is no proof" that the Bakunawas connived with the Marcoses or any of their relatives or dummies to commit the alleged illegal acts.

"The influence may be assumed and—in common parlance, it might be reasonably made. But to conclude that there was abuse of office by Luz Bakunawa or her utilization of her office or of the spouses Marcos cannot be assumed or stated in any certainty," Garchitorena said.

DOJ appeals exclusion of 2 lawyers

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice will appeal the Sandiganbayan's decision to exclude two Cabinet undersecretaries from the government's prosecution team in the ongoing plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee said that his fellow undersecretaries, Alex Padilla of the Department of Health and Dennis Villaignacio of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, do not receive additional compensation from their service in prosecution panel.

"What the law prohibits is double compensation when a government official serves in two separate functions," Teehankee told reporters in a news briefing yesterday.

"Undersecretaries Padilla and Villaignacio do not receive extra compensation as lawyers in the government's prosecution team," Teehankee added.

Finance execs plead not guilty in tax scam

By Volt Contreras

FORMER Finance Undersecretary Arturo Belicena and nine others pleaded not guilty to seven graft charges stemming from the alleged fraudulent issuance of tax credit certificates in 1997.

The accused, including two garments businessmen, were arraigned Monday before the Sandiganbayan's First Division with acting chair, Associate Justice Gregory Ong, presiding.

Charged with graft, along with Belicena, were fellow Finance department officials Uldarico Andutan Jr., Mirriam Tabarra, Galdys Ulano, Cesar Estulano Jr., Irene Magbuhos, Lucila Cueto, and Mark Binsol.

The officials were with the department's One Stop Shop Inter-agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center, of which Andutan was executive director.

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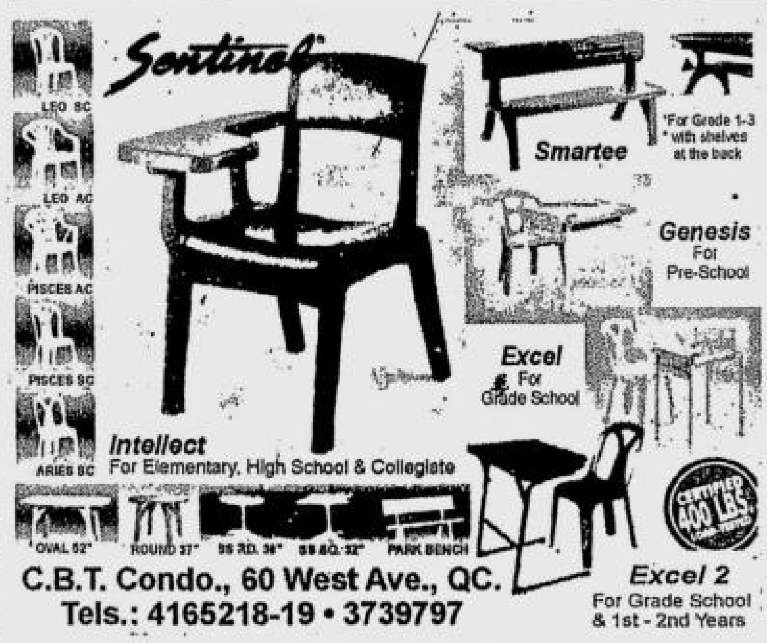

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SC: $350-M Jancom deal legal

From page A1

The resolution, dated April 10, emphasized that the court was "not making any pronouncement as to whether or not the contract in question is advantageous or disadvantageous to the government," adding that this was a question that was "primarily and exclusively a matter for the President to decide."

The Department of Justice lauded the decision for recognizing the executive department's discretion to decide the fate of the contract.

"While it affirms the validity of the contract as a perfected contract, the Court also recognizes the discretion and power of the executive in deciding whether to proceed with the contract or not, based on factors and information available to the executive," said Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee.

Incinerators okay if . . .

In ruling on the validity of the contract, which the regional trial court and then the Court of Appeals had previously upheld, the Supreme Court also stressed an earlier ruling that incinerators are illegal under the Clean Air Act only if they emit toxic and poisonous fumes.

"It may not, thus, be argued that the Clean Air Act prohibits all forms of incineration as to make the contract in question violative of the Clean Air Act," the ruling read. But it added that violations of the Clean Air Act by the Jancom contract could still be raised.

"This is not to say, of course, that the contract involved does not in fact run afoul (of) the Clean Air Act. That issue may still be raised by the proper party in a proper action," the court said.

The court branded as misleading the Metro Manila Development Authority's argument that the waste management contract with Jancom never got through the negotiation stage.

"(The MMDA) claims that the waste management contract never got through the negotiation stage since the notice sent by then MMDA Chair Prospero Oreta informing Jancom that it was the winning bidder specifically provided that the (contract) was subject to negotiation," the court ruling read.

"The argument is misleading since it deceivingly overlooks the fact that after the said letter was sent out, a contract was prepared and signed by Jancom and the Philippine government," the court said.

The court said that the arguments filed by the MMDA in its motion for reconsideration were a mere rehash of its previous motion for certiorari against the Jancom contract.

President's signature

After the high tribunal issued its Jan. 30 ruling, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos told reporters he was merely waiting for President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature. "I am now awaiting the decision of the President on the matter," Abalos said. "I have told her that we have to respect the decision of the high court."

At that time, Abalos had already said that there might not be any "grounds for a reconsideration of the decision."

"We have our lawyers but we might end up just reiterating our same objections to the contract," he said. "The Supreme Court might consider it pro-forma."

Tipping fee

Some of the issues raised by the MMDA in contesting the validity of the contract are the Clean Air Act's ban on the use of incinerators, the closure of the San Mateo landfill site, and the costly tipping fee of $53 per ton. Operators of incinerators or landfills receive a tipping fee for every ton of garbage collected for them by the local government.

Jancom and the MMDA are currently in the thick of discussions to renegotiate the deal. Jancom officials have said that they have lowered the tipping fee to $39.

On Dec. 19, 1997, Jancom signed a $350-million waste management contract with Oreta, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Victor Ramos and Malacañang's Cabinet Officer for Regional Development-NCR Dionisio de la Serna.

But then President Fidel Ramos did not sign the contract due to Jancom's failure to comply with certain conditions. The Estrada administration also did not pursue the contract because of the passage of the Clean Air Act.

The Jan. 30 decision was written by Associate Justice Jose A.R. Melo and concurred in by Associate Justices Jose Vitug, Artemio Panganiban and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Associate Justice Antonio Carpio had inhibited himself then, saying he was a former counsel to Jancom's foreign partner. He also did not take part in the April 10 decision.

Too many chiefs . . .

From page A1

directors general—Reynaldo Velasco, Edgar Aglipay and Clyde Fernandez—three more than its allotted number. Two of them were promoted for their role in People Power II in January 2001 and the defense of Malacañang against the siege mounted last May 1 by Joseph Estrada's supporters.

Fernandez, who heads the PNP's transnational crime office, was promoted earlier. The promotions of Aglipay, director of the National Capital Region, and Velasco, director for comptrollership, were announced only yesterday.

In an attempt to explain why the number of three-star generals in the PNP had risen from three to six, Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said: "There is nothing unusual with their promotions as they were promoted for meritorious accomplishments."

The PNP spokesperson said Aglipay and Velasco were promoted because of their participation in the revolt that culminated in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of the presidency.

He said that early on, the two officials joined the forces that provided support to the then Vice President, and played a crucial role in defending the Palace in the May 1 attack.

The three promoted officials joined Hermogenes Ebdane and Edgardo Galvante, PNP deputy directors for administration and for operations; and Rex Piad, chief of the PNP directorial staff.

Ebdane and Galvante are members of Class 1970 of the Philippine Military Academy, and Velasco and Aglipay, of Class 1971.

The others whose promotions were announced yesterday were directors Jose Poblete, Domingo Reyes Jr. and Avelino Razon, heads of the internal affairs service, the Southern Tagalog regional command, and the Central Visayas command, respectively.

Leoncio Laygo, deputy of the Special Action Force, was promoted to the rank of chief superintendent.

But not everyone is happy in the police force.

A manifesto questioning the promotion of the aides and security escorts of PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza is making the rounds of the ranks.

The manifesto was issued by a group calling itself "The Aggrieved Policemen who always Defend the Constitution" and that laid claim to the defense of Malacañang during the May 1 siege.

Mendoza yesterday challenged the group to step forward, and expressed disbelief that the manifesto was issued by low-ranking policemen.

"This was done by former cadets," he said, apparently referring to PMA graduates. But he refused to name names or to say whether the group had links to political blocs.

Mendoza said that instead of issuing position papers, these men should apply before promotion boards or ask their superiors to recommend them for higher posts.

Mendoza also said he had approved the promotion of 14,000 policemen, including 300 superintendents.

"Those who were promoted were deserving (of higher posts)," he said, referring to his security escorts.

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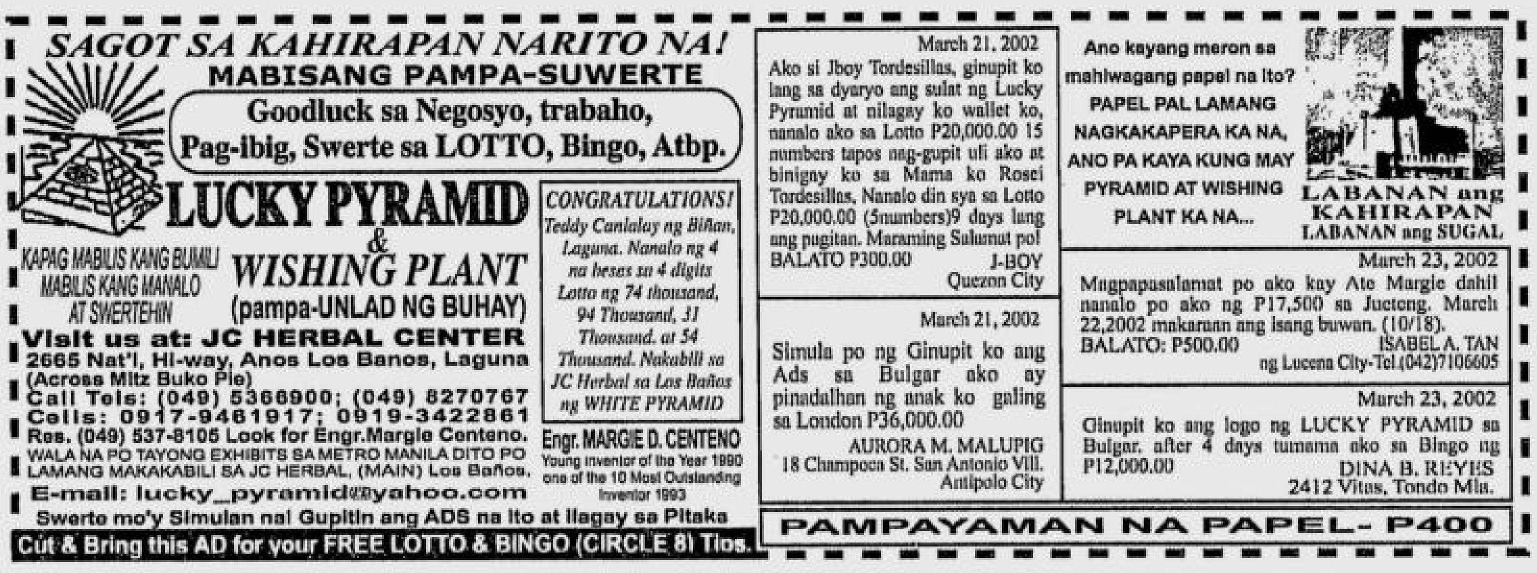

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Gloria in peso bills: Why?

OPPOSITION Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday objected to President Macapagal-Arroyo's being featured alongside her father in the new P200 bills to be issued in time for this year's Independence Day celebrations.

"President Corazon Aquino, who has become a symbol of our newfound democracy, didn't have the swollen ego to have herself included in the P500 bill which featured her husband (the martyred leader Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino)," said Remulla in a statement.

"Marcos who is allegedly the country's most feared dictator was also not that conceited to put himself in any of our bank notes," added Remulla, a former broadcast journalist.

Remulla said being featured in the country's notes is an honor given to heroes, heroines and martyrs who have dedicated their lives to the service of their country and people.

He said Ms Macapagal hasn't earned that right yet although her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, deserved the honor. ***Juliet Labog-Javellana***

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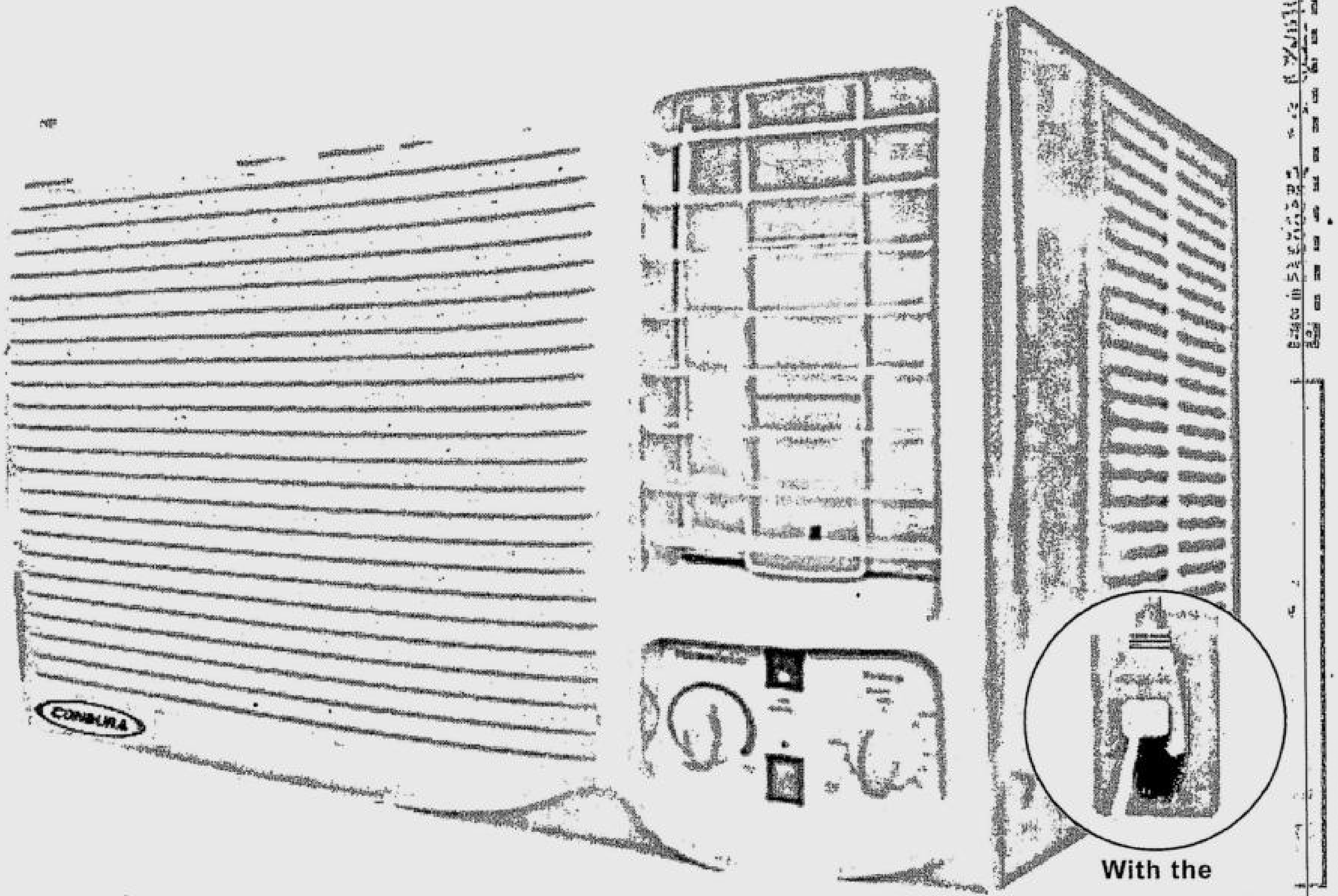

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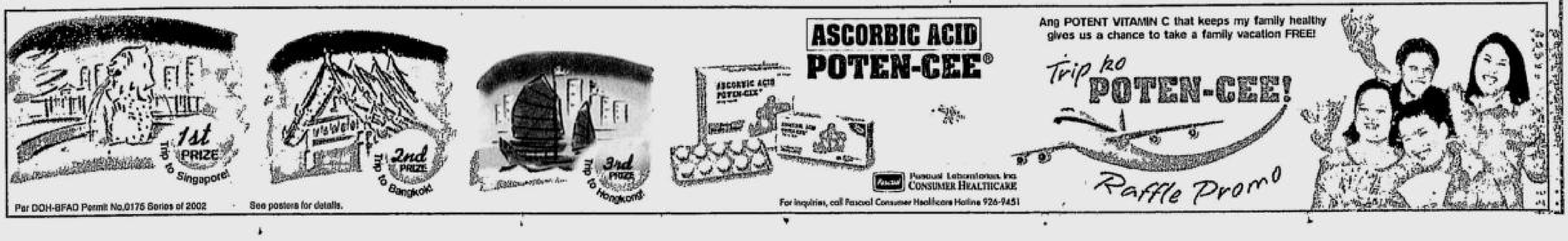
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Perfect fit

EDITORIAL

DOES President Macapagal-Arroyo have an image problem? It's obvious she thinks so. Look at how fast she has been shuffling the people whose principal responsibility is to polish the image of her administration and of course, her own. In the first 15 months of her presidency, Ms Macapagal has had two different spokespersons (or is it three?) and two different press secretaries (or is it three?). She has also engaged the services of an American public relations agency, Burson-Marsteller, to handle the publicity for some of her trips abroad. And now she has appointed her long-time publicist Dante Ang as senior consultant for public relations.

While a handful of her original Cabinet nominees have been hounded by controversy, the changes have been fast and almost furious at the Office of the Press Secretary and the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson. In her original team, among the first to be replaced was her spokesperson, Renato Corona, who became her chief of staff and went on to be appointed justice of the Supreme Court. Then last month, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera left the Cabinet—to join the foreign service, it was reported. In both instances, Ms Macapagal tapped veteran journalist Rigoberto Tiglao to fill the vacancies. But Tiglao had not even settled in his second job when he suddenly remembered that he had a commitment to teach on a fellowship for six months at the Kyoto University. Ms Macapagal then designated Secretary Silvestre Afable of the Presidential Management Staff to assume Tiglao's twin posts in the meantime.

For a time at least, Tiglao enjoyed the President's full confidence. Only last December, she told INQUIRER editors and reporters she didn't find it necessary to confer daily with her spokesperson because "we think alike." She recalled that even the development of their political thinking paralleled each other.

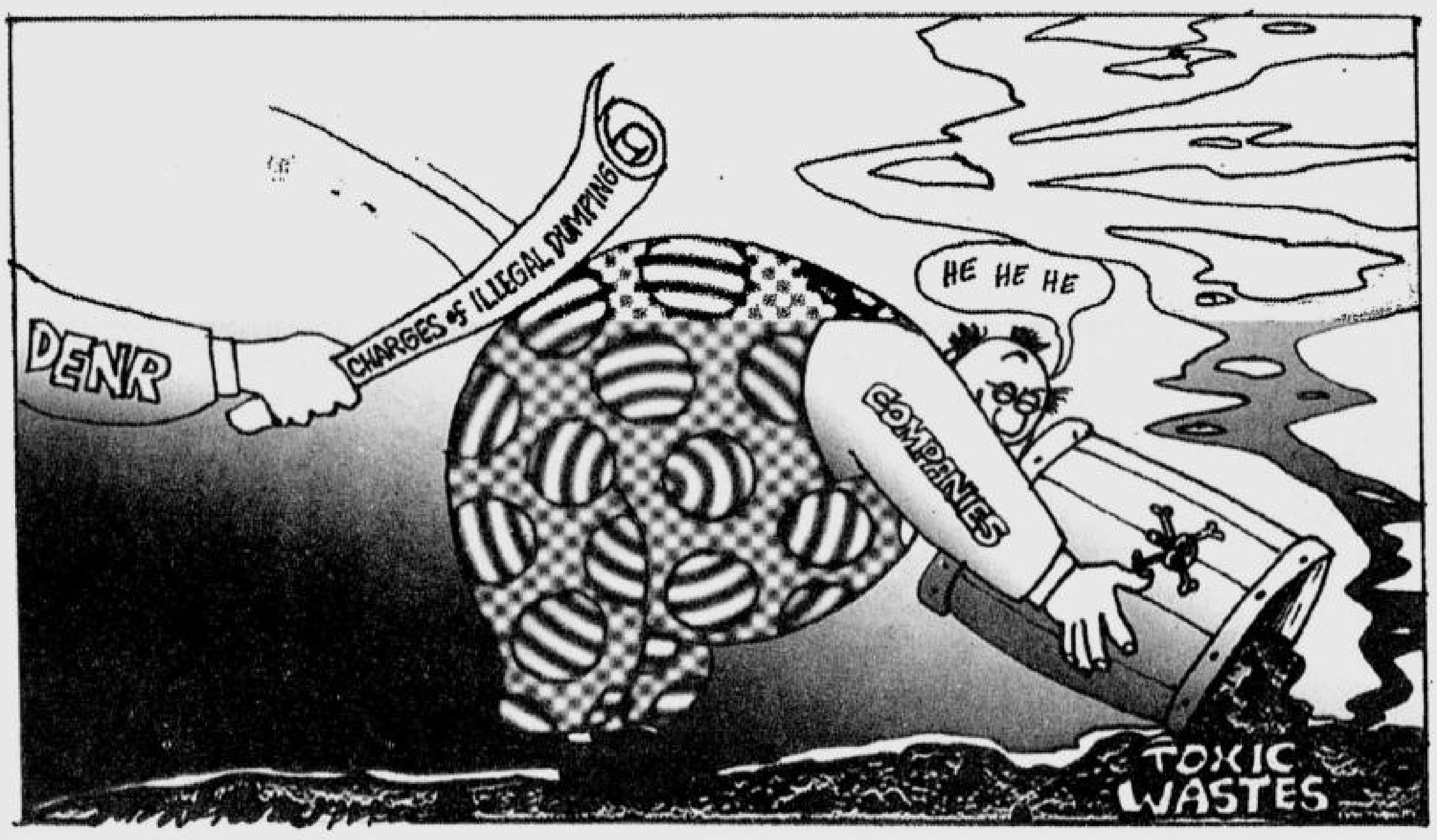
Has there been a falling out between the two old friends, and is Tiglao gone for good? Everyone in the administration, Tiglao included, has been saying no. Ms Macapagal has, in fact, denied that there was any conflict between Tiglao and Ang. But Tiglao's sudden departure for Japan and Ang's appointment seem to indicate otherwise.

If the President believes no one can do the job better, then it is well that she has given Ang an official title. Aside from serving as her personal publicist, Ang is said to have been a pervasive presence at the OPS and other government information agencies since Day One of her presidency. Apparently this has been a major cause of friction between Ang and those occupying top positions in these agencies, including Cabrera and quite possibly Tiglao. No self-respecting executive would like to have anyone other than the boss looking over one's shoulder. So if Ang is running an office, he might as well be named to the position. As Ang himself has noted, his critics have been saying he has authority but not accountability. So now that he has an official position, we hope he will be a less shadowy presence.

Accountability, however, is about the only nice thing one can reasonably expect from Ang's appointment. The crowning achievement of his career has been the repackaging of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into a Nora Aunor look-alike for her successful run for the vice presidency in 1998. He is also credited with the less-than-smashing makeover of the President into "Ate Glo" and more recently "Ina ng Bayan"—a very clear attempt to identify her with the masses. Thus, going by his record, Ang can be expected to preside over the further cheapening of the presidency and the idiotization of the Filipino.

In this task Ang is going to get plenty of help from people who thrive on sycophancy. Like those officials of the Philippine Carabao Center in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, who named their new-born test-tube carabao "Glory." Or the officials who have advertised a public toilet under the Kamias flyover in Quezon City as a project of the President, whose construction is being undertaken by the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. with the cooperation of the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Philippine National Police. If this is one of the administration's flagship projects, then one gets an idea of where the nation is going. And if the President feels flattered by all this, then she deserves the officials she has appointed.

Given such a mind-set, Ang is perfect for the job Ms Macapagal has created for him.



The queer contracts on Macapagal's lap

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST April 5, I wrote about an interview with former President Estrada on April 2 in his Veterans Memorial Medical Center suite during which Erap revealed that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been approving controversial contracts that he had earlier disapproved. He said he had been offered billions of pesos in kickbacks to approve these contracts but that he had refused and disapproved them anyway.

When President Macapagal took over, these same contracts were suddenly being approved, he said. He was implying that the kickbacks offered to him were given or promised to the Macapagal administration instead. Among the controversial contracts are:

1. The contract with Impsa (Industrias Metallurgicas Perscarmona Sociedad Anonima) of Argentina to rehabilitate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydroelectric plant in Laguna. Erap said he was offered $14 million (that's in dollars) to approve the deal but that he disapproved it. Two days after President Macapagal took over, Erap said, she approved it.

"There wasn't even time to review and study it," Erap said, "but it was approved with the speed of lightning."

(This is not true, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told me later over breakfast. It was Erap, not Ms Macapagal who signed it, he said. He must have forgotten or become confused.)

(I asked Perez to show me the contract. He did, a few days later. A photocopy, certified by Juan Just. Rodom T. Fetiza, assistant secretary.)

(The distinctive signature of Joseph E. Estrada was there. It was also signed by then Executive Secretary Edgardo J. Angara.)

(What happened, Mr. Estrada, did you forget that you signed it? Or were you pulling my leg?)

2. The expensive contract to dispose of Metro Manila's garbage with Jancom, another foreign company. Erap said he was offered a 20-percent commission to approve it, "but I turned it down."

Since that deal is worth P59 billion (that's billion) in 25 years, 20 percent of that is P11.9 billion, to go to the President who approves it. Although a contract had been signed earlier with the Metro Manila Development Authority, Erap refused to sign it. It was too costly.

Besides, the Clean Air Act which bans incinerators has been passed and burning garbage through incinerators is one of Jancom's ways of disposing of the garbage. Jancom went to court for the enforcement of the contract.

The Supreme Court ruled that the contract was valid but that it needed the approval of the President (Macapagal) to be enforceable.

President Macapagal has not yet signed it. But she has not made any statement whether or not she intends to sign it. So Jancom has hired a public relations firm and is spending a lot of money making the rounds of press forums to get favorable publicity. The reaction has been negative.

Erap and the people are wondering why Ms Macapagal cannot make up her mind. If she is not going to sign the contract, why doesn't she say so and get it over with? Jancom won't have to throw away more money in a public relations campaign to persuade her to sign it. And the government can proceed to look for another environment-friendly way of disposing garbage and another company to do it.

Some people with malicious minds suspect that the President is putting Jancom in suspense because she is waiting for something. The 20 percent of P59 billion? That's what Erap was leading up to in the interview.

3. SGS is another foreign company that had a contract with the Bureau of Customs to give it advance reports on cargoes on the way to Philippine ports. The relationship was obviously unsatisfactory so the contract was terminated. SGS filed a claim of P6 billion for uncollected fees. A committee was formed to review the contract, headed by Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosqueta.

After a long review, Rosqueta and her committee reported that the claim was inflated. There were many double-billings and other questionable claims. Her committee approved only a little more than P3 billion of the claims.

Erap said he was offered 15 percent of P6 billion just to approve the claim. He said he was offered another 10 percent to extend the SGS contract with the BOC. He turned both offers down, he said.

When President Macapagal took over, Rosqueta was suddenly replaced by an outsider as deputy customs commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring. She was also replaced by another deputy commissioner as chair of the special committee reviewing the SGS claims. Within a week, the new chair recommended that the whole P6 billion claim of SGS be paid. Then Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva immediately approved the recommendation before he retired compulsorily. Now Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he would approve the claim and pay it. That was really done with the speed of lighting.

Why the obvious ploys to pay SGS its claims? Is it because of the 15 percent of P6 billion? That's P900 million, a big addition to swell a presidential campaign fund. That was what Erap was driving at during the interview.

Questions, questions. Unfortunately, Secretary Perez said during our breakfast that he could not answer these questions. He had knowledge only of the Impsa contract.

But also unfortunately, to people with suspicious minds, everything seems to be very clear. Everything falls neatly into place.

Malacañang has to disabuse the minds of these people—if it can.

Pride

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a very nice article Nestor Torre wrote last Sunday. Indeed, it is great source of national pride to find Lino Brocka assessed as one of the world's best moviemakers in a recent book.

That book is "Film: The Critics' Choice," an Ivy Press publication, edited by Geoff Andrew with a foreword by Bernardo Bertolucci. Bertolucci of course everyone knows. But I do know a bit about Andrew as well. He wrote the foreword to another film book, which is the "Time Out Film Guide," which contains brief reviews of thousands of movies, with a fairly good representation from Eastern Europe and Third World countries. I have that book. To say that the reviewers are a little finicky about their movies is to say that the French are a little finicky about their wines. Some of the reviews give you the sensation of Zorro delicately working his blade upon some hapless victim. To be praised by these guys, and in the epic way they've done Lino Brocka, is quite a feat.

It's "Maynila: Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" that's earned the accolade for Brocka. The book, which has made it a point to expand the world's film horizons by looking past Hollywood and Western Europe to Asia and Latin America, has adjudged it one of the world's 150 best films. The reasons for it are found in Torre's article, to which I draw the reader's attention. I need not repeat them.

I myself have only a dim recollection of "Maynila" now. I caught a glimpse of it some months ago on Channel 22 while surfing TV, but too late, it was almost the end. I thought I'd watch it later in its entirety, but forgot about it afterward. I do recall that it featured Hilda Koronel and Bembol Roco in the flush of their youth. Koronel was already an accomplished actor then, Roco, who had just been discovered by Brocka, was introduced in the movie. It was the last time I would see Roco with hair on his head. It was also the last time he would act in a movie that would test his mettle.

I do recall, moreover, that it was also a very depressing look at life in Manila, the big city which ripped the hopes and dreams of those who came near it, literally like the "claws of light." Turning wide-eyed innocents into thieves and hustlers and hookers (Tommy Abuel would jokingly call himself a "*puto*," the male version of a "*puta*") overnight to survive. A common theme, even a trite one, but one that Brocka invested with much grit, honesty and ultimately grace. He spoke from the heart, which was where its power lay. He himself, when he was alive, freely called himself a *provinciano* and had no end of stories to tell about his misadventures in the big city. I never met anyone whose heart bled more for the poor. He felt his movies deeply, that was why they rang true.

I should think the signal honor that has been heaped on Brocka should remind us of a couple of things.

One is that before Ang Lee and Zhang Zimou, there was Lino Brocka. And even before Brocka, there were Avellana and Silos. We have a grand tradition of moviemaking in this country—in the same way that we have a grand tradition of writing in this country—if only we would have the wits to see it. Unfortunately, like many of the other treasures our predecessors have bequeathed to us, it is something we have frittered away. And continue to fritter away with cheap Hollywood imitations, particularly of action movies that involve expensive pyrotechnics and *pito-pito* stuff. We keep complaining that the local movie industry is dying. Well, for lack of pride and imagination, it is.

It's the story of our lives. We used to be next only to Japan in economic potential. Look where we are now. Pride can be eaten. That has been the Japanese staple for most of its life.

Two is that edifying, enlightening, or life-affirming movies do not naturally mean "Bambi" or any one of the Walt Disney creations. Which is the monumental fallacy the "moral terrorists," as Nick Tiongson called them, have unleashed upon this land. That was what they kept saying when Joey Reyes made "Live Show" and Joel Lamangan made "Hubog." Why can't we make more "positive" movies? Why can't we make ones that lift the spirit? Why can't we make movies like "Crouching Tiger" that will storm the gates of Hollywood?

The answer is simple. Because Ang Lee has his world and we have our own. Because Ang Lee has his experience and tradition, and we have our own. Because Ang Lee has his truth, and we have our own. Brocka has made movies that show his own perception of his world, that plumb his own experience and tradition, and that tell a truth unlike any other, and he **has** stormed the world.

Indeed, the answer is simple. We have been producing positive movies, we have been producing edifying movies, we have been producing life-affirming movies: if only we would have the wits to see it. "Maynila" is just as depressing as "Live Show" and "Hubog," the last two depicting as well the desperate *kapit-sa-patalim* (not quite incidentally, the title of another Brocka tour de force) lives of those who inhabit the pores, or armpits, of society. If it had just been made today, it would probably get an "X" from the censors, or be derided by the "moral terrorists," for its sex and violence.

Yet for all its dark and stark hues, for all its sex and violence, it affirms us. It affirms us, as art does, even when it sobs and despairs, by telling the truth about us. It affirms us by showing that amid the darkness and despair swirling around us, there are people who have the heart to see it, who have the eyes to feel compassion for those who have been caught in their claws. That in the end is what makes beauty. The truth, as the Church itself keeps reminding us, shall set you free.

It shall also, as Brocka has shown us, set new records of excellence.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Dante Ang's PR services

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE DEPARTURE last Monday of Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao for Japan, ostensibly to take up a six-month fellowship as a visiting professor at the Kyoto University, has heightened rather than dissipated speculation over his abrupt leave of absence.

The speculation over the reason for Tiglao's leave has centered on the rather shadowy role of Dante Ang, personal publicist of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; in the presidential publicity apparatus. Ang's role and responsibility have become even more murky after the President announced the appointment of Ang as a senior consultant for public relations.

It is not even clear whether Ang is a private consultant or is now a public official serving as a peso-a-year adviser. The President takes pride in the claim that she strives to have a transparent administration, but the status of Ang as her "publicist" lives in a twilight zone of ambiguity. For example, what is Ang supposed to do as a consultant and what is his line of responsibility vis-à-vis the officer in charge of the Office of the Press Secretary, Silvestre Afable, in the absence of Tiglao?

Ang's appointment is no less nebulous in terms of responsibility and accountability than deposed President Joseph Estrada's nearly 50 advisers and consultants, some of whom formed his "midnight shadow cabinet." Ang's association with the President dates back to 1993 when she was elected to the Senate, and Ang claims credit for "repackaging" her image to give her a *"masa"* appeal. Implicit in this claim is that it was the repackaging and the reinvention of Ms Macapagal that made her top the 1995 senatorial election and in the 1998 election, where she won more votes for vice president than Estrada for president.

Ang is claiming much credit for his PR gimmickry. Ms Macapagal has more inherent qualities and assets than sheer repackaging and gimmickry, and anyone who claims to be responsible for her electoral appeal should be viewed with suspicion. She should be insulted for having her own qualifications to high public office downgraded by a "publicist" who is more concerned over image-building rather than presenting and interpreting the President's policies and accomplishments.

Both Tiglao and Palace officials dismiss reports that underlying tensions between Tiglao and Ang over how to explain the presidency were responsible for Tiglao's hasty departure, as well as the resignation of Press Secretary Noel Cabrera last March. Cabrera said he was "burnt out" and it is not far-fetched to say that Ang's reported meddling in his function can generate enough heat to force him to quit to escape being burned. One wonders how long Afable can work in an ambiguous relationship between him and Ang. Both would like to present the President in the best of light, and sooner or later, they are bound to clash over their different approaches.

Tiglao's reason for his leave—taking up the fellowship—is less than convincing. Tiglao had served as spokesperson for the President in just a year and had hardly warmed his seat as press secretary when he too announced he was taking a leave. In fact, he was just hitting stride in his job of explaining the presidency without gimmickry. A six-month absence breaks momentum, given the swift tempo of events swirling around the Macapagal presidency. It is hard to believe his claim that the Macapagal presidency has established political stability. The administration continues to stumble from one tumultuous event to the next and if there is one thing that the Cabinet needs most, it is the continuity of its personnel.

The President has changed spokesperson in midstream—a bad formula for consistency in explanation and inspiring public confidence in the administration.

From this point of view, Tiglao's leave is a symptom of instability in the Cabinet itself, of infighting over territory that becomes ill-defined when advisers or consultants collide with Cabinet members over their areas of responsibility, especially in the explaining of the presidency to the public.

The confusion over what to make out of the President—especially the presentation of her as a tough "iron lady" or as one who easily enters a compromise when threatened by instability or alleged coup plots—stems from the conflicting ways through which she is projected to the public. The President has already demonstrated competence in economic management and consistency, resulting in the resilience of the economic performance despite the global economic slowdown, and yet this accomplishment is being downgraded by the effort to give her *"masa"* appeal.

The "Ina ng Bayan" image coming through the government propaganda TV—said to be Ang's invention—is not only cheap gimmickry but, worse, it is sophomoric. It is a vulgar imitation of the "Erap para sa Mahirap" showmanship. GMA and Erap are two different persons, with different credentials for the presidency. GMA cannot fight Erap in his own game. She has to do something more than Erap's bogus concern and rhetoric for the poor, and Ang's approach has the fatal mistake of making GMA ape Erap.

The presidency is a different game from being in the Senate or being vice president. The President has vast power in her hands to change and improve the lives of the Filipino people. She can make things happen. She does not need publicists or PR consultants to do this. They are redundant and should be thrown overboard before they do more damage to her administration.

Israel's suicide

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"ISN'T it amazing how the whole world is now against Israel?" a friend asked recently. Indeed, after the catastrophic events of 9/11, one would have thought the world had turned entirely anti-Arab. Not anti-Arab terrorist, or anti-Arab fundamentalist, but anti-Arab.

In the United States, sentiment had turned against not just all who shared Arab ethnicity, or even the Islamic faith, but anyone who looked even vaguely of Middle Eastern origin. American media were quick to point out the irony that among the earliest victims of the post-9/11 backlash was a Sikh man, who was neither Arab nor Muslim, but whose people shared the Arab custom of turban-wearing among men.

Given the wave of public mourning, anger and consternation at the destruction of the World Trade Center, one would think world public opinion would today be entirely supportive of Israel. After all, isn't Israel considered the foremost ally of the United States, and by extension, the Western and non-Islamic world, in the Middle East? And aren't the Israelis besieged, what with being surrounded by hostile Arab governments, and fending off the threat of Palestinian violence within their own boundaries?

Why, then are governments around the world now rallying behind the cause of Palestinian self-determination and their right to a homeland? And why is world opinion turned determinedly against the Israeli siege of the Church of the Nativity, one of the holiest shrines in all Christendom?

* * *

SUSPICIONS have been raised, in fact, that the Sharon government sought to use the immediate post-9/11 scenario, and the anti-Arab sentiment then prevailing, to make the final push in his bull-headed, heedless ambition to clear the West Bank of Palestinians.

Even though Jewish settlers in the early 1900s already encountered communities of Palestinian settlers, they have never really stopped considering their neighbors as little more than irritants and interlopers. Though the Palestinian settlements in the West Bank had been established only after bitter battles and many international agreements, Israel has never ceased coveting this land, arguing it needs this strip of land as a "buffer" between it and its hostile neighbors. Though paying lip service to the right of Palestinians to their territory, successive Israeli administrations have done little to curb the settlement of Jewish migrants into Palestinian lands.

And on the excuse of curbing the stone-throwing protests and the new, scary form of protest launched by suicide bombers, Israeli troops have turned the West Bank into a virtual armed camp.

A Palestinian employee of a UN agency in the West Bank tells the heartbreaking story of a family conversation over dinner. His wife, he says, was regaling them with news of her brother's family in Australia, wondering aloud when they could travel to Australia and pay them a visit. "But Mama," their young daughter piped up, "we can't even walk to the next street without passing through a checkpoint!" His daughter's words, he said, underscored for him the utter poverty of choices and the bleakness of the future they faced while they lived beneath the Israeli boot.

* * *

IT is this sense of despair, of hopelessness, of daily communal humiliation, that many say are fueling the escalation of Palestinian protests against Israeli domination. It is easy enough to dismiss the suicide bombers as "fanatics," or "terrorists," as Sharon insists on calling them. But increasingly, the men and women strapping explosives to their bodies and detonating them to maximum effect and casualties, are fitting less and less the typical profile of a potential suicide bomber.

In its latest issue, Time magazine says the Palestinian suicide bomber "used to be easy to describe." Typically, he was "male, 17 to 22 years of age, unmarried, unformed, facing a bleak future, fanatically religious and thus susceptible to Islam's promise of a martyr's place in paradise."

In the years immediately following the first suicide bombing in 1993, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the most radical of the Palestinian anti-Israeli groups, were hard put recruiting young men with the potential to blow up themselves in crowded places. Today, says Time, "volunteers are coming forward faster than the militant leaders can strap an explosive belt around their waist and send them off to kill and die." Among the volunteers, young women in their teens, who are less likely to come under suspicion as they enter restaurants or malls or fast-food joints to carry out their deadly business.

* * *

AS if it hasn't alienated the rest of the world already by its heavy-handed tactics in the West Bank, the Sharon government deeply offended Christians by chasing what it claims are Palestinian gunmen to the Church of the Nativity and then laying siege to them there:

The Israelis say the Palestinians are holding "hostage" the monks looking after the Church, which stands on the site believed to have been the place where Christ was born. But the monks themselves insist that they allowed the gunmen in for "sanctuary," and that they had not been harmed.

Instead of moving to ease tensions and resolve the standoff, the Israelis moved tanks in front of the church, demanding no less than surrender, and attempting to flush the gunmen out by using wailing sirens and other ear-splitting devices to weaken their resolve. But such tactics have not brought an end to the siege, and instead have isolated Israel even more than it already is in the Middle East.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

The moth and the lamp

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

BEFORE THERE was electricity, Filipinos used candles and oil lamps to light their homes. When everyone went to bed, one lamp was usually left burning the whole night. This was done so people who walked about during the night would not trip or bump into things. On one such night in the late 1860s, in a large stone house in Calamba, Laguna, Jose Rizal and his mother, Teodora Alonso, were sitting by a table dimly lit by a coconut oil lamp.

Lolay, as she was known to everyone, was teaching her son to read from a book in Spanish titled "El Amigo de los Niños" or "The Children's Friend." The book was old and tattered. Its cover was lost and was replaced by a blue sheet of paper and a piece of cloth. Contrary to popular belief, Rizal was reading poorly. Lolay became impatient and took the book from him only to find that the naughty boy had drawn funny pictures on its pages! Lolay scolded Rizal and ordered him to listen as she read. But Rizal was bored and instead busied himself watching the moths that were flying around the coconut oil lamp. When Rizal yawned, Lolay stopped reading. "All right," she said, "I'm going to read you a nice story. Now, pay attention!"

I am not sure whether Rizal changed because he heard the word "story" or he was trying to avoid a pinch or *coscorrones* (a rap on the head with Lolay's knuckles or her *abanico*). While Lolay leafed through the pages of the book, Rizal wondered whether it was indeed possible to find a good story there. He had read the book once before but found nothing of great interest. To his surprise Lolay chose to read a story about moths. Lolay even translated what she read into Tagalog, bit by bit. For years, I have been trying to locate that same copy of "El Amigo de los Niños" if only to see the doodles Rizal left in them. So far, I have been unsuccessful. I have also tried to locate a copy of the book, if only to read the same text Lolay read and translated to Rizal.

Every Filipino child knows both the story of Rizal and his mother, as well as the story of the moth and the flame. In the story, an old moth warned a young moth not to fly too close to a lighted candle lest it die. But the young moth was so attracted to the candle's light and warmth that it ignored the older moth's advice. Round and round the flame it flew. Finally it hovered so near the flame that its wings got burned. It fell and died.

While listening to the story, Rizal continued to watch the moths flying around the lamp on the table. One of the moths, just like the one in the story, flew near the flame and burned its wings, but that's not how it died. It fell into the pool of coconut oil at the bottom of the lamp and drowned. The moth fluttered its wings for a while, and became quiet. It was dead.

That night as Lolay tucked Rizal into bed, she repeated the lesson of the story. "Do not behave like the young moth," she told him. "Do not be disobedient or you may get burnt as it did." One wonders whether Rizal took his mother's version of the story or related it to the Greek legend about Icarus and the man-made wings that fell apart because he came too close to the sun. Like the moth, Icarus also died because of his disobedience. I must have had a different upbringing because from childhood I always thought otherwise. Although both Icarus and the moth were disobedient, they were willing to dare. They were willing to go beyond their limits and their comfort zones. Such an attitude is what makes for new knowledge.

When he was older, Rizal said, "Moths are no longer insignificant insects to me, they talked; they knew how to warn; they advised just like my mother." This is rather amusing because Rizal was shot because he did not heed his mother's advice to stay home, not to study too much, or shut up. I often wonder if Rizal had moths flying around his lamp in his prison cell in Fort Santiago in December 1896.

Summer classes opened last Monday and I am already planning my annual visit to the Rizal Shrine in Calamba to pick up something new just by walking around this reconstructed house. I imagine what it was like in Rizal's time.

The ground floor must have been busy, with people coming in and out, because Lolay maintained a *sari-sari* store there. The second floor must have been more private. There are only three small bedrooms in this part of the house: one for Rizal's parents, one supposedly for Rizal and his *kuya* Paciano, the other for his nine sisters! All of them shared one toilet too! I would like to believe that the large *sala* or living room between the bedrooms, became a bedroom at night to accommodate the Rizal family. There must have been a giant mosquito net hung from the four main posts of the house to keep sleepers insect-free at night. Everyone must have slept on the floor, their places clearly marked by their personal mats, pillows and blankets.

I have been to this house countless times and each time I get some new insights into the life and times of Rizal. If you have nothing better to do these days, try and drop by the Rizal Shrine in Calamba before or after you take your dip in Los Baños. You'll never know what you will find.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The making of a San Pedro fan

COMMENTARY

Vic Milan

BECOMING a fan of anyone doesn't come easy to some of us. But I became a fan of Maestro Lucio D. San Pedro in the days after his death on Easter Sunday. Condoling with one of his daughters, Cristy San Pedro Salita who is a family friend, provided opportunities to understand the qualities that made this son of Angono a Pambansang Alagad ng Sining.

At a time when many media headlines are all too often about people linked to financial and moral scandals, it was inspiring to learn about composer Lucio San Pedro's brand of greatness as a nationalist, family man, friend and servant of God.

Money was not San Pedro's motivation. Nor fame. His was total dedication to his vocation as a composer and teacher. His talent was a gift that he acknowledged at the end of every piece that he composed with the words *"Deo Gracias"* followed by three exclamation points. He derived his rewards from the joyful reactions of people who appreciated, and whose lives he touched with, his music. It must have moved him deeply that in the final minutes just before workers sealed his tomb an elderly barrio woman in worn-out clothes and grime-filled rubber sandals managed to sneak in through the cordon of dignitaries and military officials in their sharply pressed white uniforms to pluck a flower from a wreath and drop it lovingly on his coffin.

I'm now just beginning to understand what he called "creative nationalism" in his approach to music composition. One listening closely enough will recognize the first notes of the national anthem in his "Jubilate." The first two bars of "Bahay Kubo" will also be heard somewhere within his symphonic poem "Lahing Kayumanggi." And one part of his "Suite Pastorale" is the national favorite and classic "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." His compositions have such titles as "Sa Mahal Kong Bayan" and "Buwan sa Kabundukan."

Prof. Alfredo Buenaventura, whose friendship with the maestro spanned over three decades, had the Cultural Center of the Philippines audience almost in stitches at his stories of Lucio San Pedro the prankster, this during formal and solemn necrological services. He also gave public testimony to the fact that the mother of his five children was the maestro's first and only woman in his life.

And when last month his beloved "Ude" (for Gertrudes) was hospitalized, he who was then himself connected to an oxygen cylinder pleaded with his children that he be brought to the hospital to be near their Nanay because he felt that *"baka hindi na kami magkakasama ng matagal."*

He had said of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" that it was his tribute to "…my *nanay*, your *nanay* and all *nanays* everywhere."

I knew that there would surely be musical tributes to this beloved national artist. His compositions, I felt, would be played or sung by artists who loved him; there might never be another occasion where his works would be performed with greater feeling and emotion. I did not want to miss that. My friendship with a member of his family would get me vantage spots in these events. One evening I even sat on the very bed where he spent his last days, in a cramped room with shelves and walls full of citations and other testimonials to his genius. In the process, I became a Lucio San Pedro fan.

And so it was as a Lucio San Pedro admirer that I missed two of my nightly environmental radio shows to be at the final wake and street concert for him in Angono, at the CCP necrological services and tributes, at the concelebrated Mass back in Angono and his spectacular funeral procession that, I thought, was possible only in a rural setting that is uniquely Angono, lakeside artists' haven.

It was an honor to walk the last mile with members of his family to his final resting place on a hill overlooking the beloved lake that had given him much inspiration, side by side with another national artist and favorite son of Angono, Carlos "Botong" Francisco who, by some rare and thought-provoking coincidence, had passed away years before him on the same date, March 31.

Some writers have romanticized, quite understandably, the fact that another National Artist, the prolific lyricist Levi Celerio died two days after San Pedro, on Easter Tuesday. And that a few days later, Diomedes Maturan, too. Could it be that God, fed up with the misdeeds and ingratitude of people in a country that had received many of His blessings, just wanted to give Himself a break by calling to His side for a command performance a composer, a lyricist and a golden-voiced singer? What a concert that must have been.

For those of us who must remain in this graft-ridden, strife-torn and polluted world, we can take consolation and inspiration, in the works left behind by our National Artists.

I've heard "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" many times these past days. But the most unforgettable will be the one sung by tenor Nolyn Cabahug, with accompaniment by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and visual touches by four dancers of Ballet Philippines on stage at the CCP. With the composer himself on stage, in his flag-draped coffin.

Nor will I easily forget that funeral procession led by three *gigantes*, 50 Philippine flags mounted on bamboo poles, four marching bands—and with all of Angono lining the streets in a collective silent gesture of farewell and godspeed to one of their own.

It was 6 in the afternoon when the last ritual was performed, the last of a 21-gun salute fired, the last flower lovingly dropped on the maestro's coffin, the not so final tears shed by those he loved and had to leave behind to answer the call of his Maker. The sun, I noticed, was a fiery red as it sank ever so slowly over the lake and in silhouette against the Makati skyline even as they patted on the last patch of wet cement to seal his tomb behind which, on a bare wall are the words, "Prof. Emeritus, LUCIO D. SAN PEDRO, Bayani Ng Bayan Sa Musika."

The scene, I thought, would be perfect for another Lucio San Pedro symphonic poem.

Vic Milan is an environmental activist and hosts a nightly FM radio show where environmental issues are taken up.

THEY SAID

Real story

"That man could be that inhumane to a fellow man is the real story of Bataan."

—Retired US Army Maj. Richard Gordon, a survivor of the Death March

Major miscalculation

"It would be a miscalculation of monumental proportions to believe that removing Chair Arafat from the political scene and dismantling the Palestinian Authority would create conditions where Israel can achieve security for itself."

—United Nations Security General Kofi Annan on violence in the West Bank

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What makes good parents?

IN RINA Jimenez-David's column last April 7, 2002, she said that, "A good parent is one who succeeds in rearing a mature, responsible and independent adult." I don't completely agree with her because she made it sound as if the success of a parent is dependent on his child. I just don't think this should be the case, judging from my own experience.

I don't have the luxury of having a Westernized parent. A parent who believes in "grounding" a child as punishment, who screams "go to your room" just to put an end to the argument, and who constantly tells you to not talk to strangers doesn't exist for me. My parents let me be whatever I want to be. For a free spirit like me, that works magnificently.

I am not saying my parents don't care. They do care, a lot. Which is probably why my mom called me five times the first time I came home after 3 in the morning and both of them cancelled all their business plans just so they could go with me to the doctor to have a small lump forming on my shoulder checked. What I mean is, they can be protective without being overbearing, caring without being exacting. This method has worked for my siblings and me in the past 18 or so years. Sure, we're not the perfect family, but aside from the few times we violate our curfews, and the shouting matches we have every now and then, we turned out pretty okay. In other words, I don't think any of us would be arrested any time soon, or ever.

Whatever kind of people my siblings and I turn out to be, I don't think that I could blame most of it on my parents' doing. When I was little, my mother always told me to be careful and cautious whenever climbing the stairs. I fell one day and had to be stitched up. My dad told my brother to stop rocking his chair on the glass dining table. Ten minutes later, he broke it into large shards. It's kind of the same way with growing up. My parents can tell me to work hard and prepare for the future but can they really do anything if I decide to take things easy instead? I don't believe that the way kids turn out to be depends mostly on how the moms and the dads perform as parents. Of course, our parents are our guides and they somehow influence our decisions in the near future. But if one kid decides to take drugs or go to jail, do you think his parents told him to do that? When you accuse an individual of having a certain personality because of how he was raised, you are being cynical, implying that this certain personality is inevitable and could never be eliminated. A good parent for me is someone who provides the child with as many opportunities as possible for him to choose what kind of person he would like to be. However, we can't fault the parents whenever a child does something bad. I'm sure that the parents advised that child to do what is good. If the child doesn't listen or forgets to, that's not the parents' fault. Parents are there to rear the child into becoming good, not by becoming a broken record repeating everything to him again and again.

I may not be a parent yet but I was once a child. I think I could pretty much say what gets into our heads and what doesn't. Nowadays, I hear people insulting parents because of what their children do. I don't think that should be the case. Everyone, not only parents, should set an example for all children to follow. Through their actions, they could steer the youngsters in the right direction. They should give them enough freedom to express themselves and to discover what they truly want to become. And I tell you, for a free-spirit generation like the present, that would probably work magnificently.

—DYAN FLORES, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

No water service in Project 8 homes

I HAVE read several complaints and this one will just be an addition to those complaints published last February 2002 to stress the all but non-existent services of the Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Our subdivision, Elegant Homes in Project 8, Quezon City, has been waterless for years, most especially our unit (Block 2, Lot 9). We used to wait from midnight till dawn to get a medium-sized drum filled with water before our faucets went dry again. We have been relying on the services of a water delivery unit that costs us an average of P60 a day for the water supply that can only be used for laundry and cleaning purposes, as we are not sure where the water supply comes from. For the kitchen and our daily bath, we have had to drive to Rainbow Subdivision in Novaliches while our drinking water costs us P40 for every five-gallon container, or a minimum of three containers a week.

Considering these extra costs in the budget of a middle-income family, Maynilad still bills us a basic charge of P37.19 plus the add-ons that total almost the cost of the basic charge (take note that there is zero consumption). Our subdivision association has already filed a formal complaint with the Maynilad office and it has been sending its "water truck service" every Tuesday and Thursday for the last two weeks now, but we are not sure until when it will render this "consolation" service.

Garbage is also one of the major problems in the area.

We are still hoping that the government will spare some time to look into this mess. It seems that it is not bothered by these complaints.

—MILA T. FACTURAN, mtfacturan@hotmail.com

LETTERS

Observing the East Timor elections

THE PHILIPPINES' four-member Namfrel team of international election observers for the April 14, 2002 East Timor presidential elections reached the capital of Dili on Friday, April 12. Our trip from Denpassar (Bali, Indonesia) to Dili was quite rough because of an impending storm. It was raining in Bali but when we reached Dili it was hot—about 35 degrees. We stayed at a Don Bosco convent, about three minutes from the airport. Friday was the end of the campaign period; we missed Xanana Gusmao's rally.

Upon our arrival, our contact in Dili, Deng Guiguiento, a Filipino who was a former Namfrel volunteer who is now based in East Timor working for the Catholic Relief Service, briefed us immediately about the counting and voting procedures. The United Nations Development Program gave us only one copy of the observation form so we had to reproduce it for each of the delegates, who are required to fill up one form each. We were told that each observation team would have to observe at least 10 precincts, but this would also depend on the location of the precincts. There are six polling stations in each school, with 600 voters per station. Voters could vote anywhere as long as they have a voter's card.

The Philippine team deployed ourselves in the three largest districts. Mavic Montaño was deployed in Dili (the largest district and where most of the international observers are concentrated), Willy Bleza and Edgardo Ramirez in Baucau (the second largest, an outskirt and a former hot spot), while I was deployed in Ermera (about two hours from Dili). The UNDP was worried about the concentration of international volunteers in the central but was very happy to know that we are covering two outskirt areas.

The voting on April 15, 2002, was from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each polling station was manned by five "BEIs"—three East Timorese and two United Nations staff. The elections in Dili went well, they were very organized and impressive according to Montano. She was able to observe an interesting precinct—the jail for males—where they set up a room as precinct and the inmates were allowed to vote in groups of 10.

I just learned this morning that the actual counting was to start on April 16. Today, they will just reconcile and mix the ballots from the different precincts in the whole district. The materials were stored overnight in a secure area, but in Dili, because they have electricity, they started reconciling ballots as soon as they arrived. The procedure has similarities with that of Cambodia, i.e. the ballots will be mixed so that it would be impossible to trace how a precinct voted. The counting at the district is centralized. The process of reconciliation is a bit slow. So far, less than 20 precincts have been reconciled here in Ermera. There's still one roomful of ballot boxes left. I think they will only do the mixing after all the ballots from all the precincts have been reconciled.

The team will be regrouping in Dili this afternoon for sharing of observations and to observe the official counting. However, if it rains, we might find it difficult to go back. The roads are winding, like in Baguio but much worse because the roads are narrow and unpaved.

—MARIA CHRISTINA PASCUAL, head, Philippine delegation, East Timor Presidential Elections, Namfrel, 6/F RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer cor. Sheridan Streets, Mandaluyong City

'Thumbs up for 'Oks na Oks'

THIS year's Holy Week observance was indeed refreshingly dull, compared to the previous years when commuters had altercations in bus terminals, piers and airports.

Instead of screaming headlines of human tragedies—a bus ramming into another, a vessel sinking or an airplane crashing—this year's observance was uncharacteristically uneventful, except for the death of actor Rico Yan.

Credit is due to the overall management of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, with the assistance of various government agencies such as the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Philippine National Police and local governments.

With a rationalized transportation system, free of scalpers and snatchers who normally flock to crowded places, Alvarez was riding high on his promise of a secure Holy Week travel.

I wish to thank the lowliest toll collectors at the expressways to the top honcho at the Department of Transportation and Communications. I hope we will have more of this kind of safety through the "Oks na Oks" program.

—LENY CRUZ, 113D Asero St., Tugatog, Malabon City

Carmel Development side on Caloocan demolition

ON TWO instances last April 3 and 7, 2002, your paper came out with news items concerning the demolition of illegal structures in Pangarap Village, Caloocan City. The items published were full of inaccuracies and misleading information which could have been avoided if only the writer had exerted a little more effort to validate the statements of her source or sources. In the interest of truth and for the sake of the informal dwellers/residents themselves who might further be misled and aroused to violent actions for a futile purpose, kindly allow us to present the real facts.

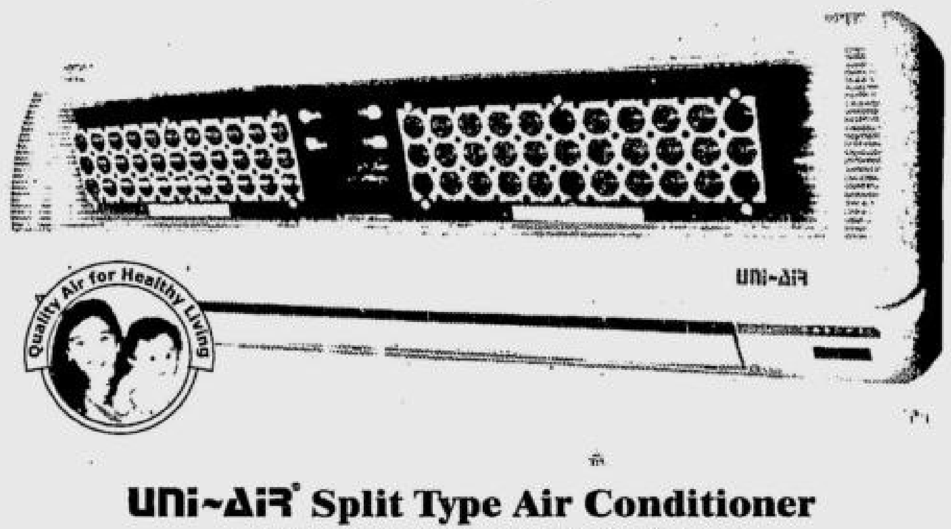
The demolition that transpired on April 2 was done in strict compliance with the legal requirements, pursuant to a valid court order issued as early as Feb. 8, 2002 and, was not implemented for several days more in response to requests for a "grace period." On March 4, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo requested that the demolition be postponed for two weeks more and Malonzo would meet and explain matters to the Pangarap Village residents to avoid misunderstanding and drastic reaction from them. Again, Carmel Development Inc. agreed to postpone the demolition until after March 18. It is therefore not true that Carmel promised government officials that there would be no demolition as claimed by the homeowners' association president that appeared in your news article. It took again another 14 days after March 18 before the demolition was finally implemented on April 2 by the sheriff's office. In brief, the demolition was undertaken not only in the most lawful manner but also in the most humane and considerate way possible.

The rights of our company, Carmel, to own and to possess the property were long upheld and are now well-established by a long line of judicial decisions including the Supreme Court decision in Case No. G.R. No. 70484 and more recently by a writ of demolition issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Caloocan City, Branch 51 dated Feb. 8, 2002. It is noteworthy that in all civil actions over the subject property involving our company against all the opposing parties like the individual residents, the Office of the Caloocan City Mayor, the Caloocan City Council and others, the claims of Carmel have been consistently sustained and vindicated. The statement therefore of the president of the homeowners' association that the 156-hectare land belongs to the residents is absolutely without any legal and factual basis. Yet, the alleged leaders of the homeowners' association continue to lure and mislead the residents, raising false hopes and promises and assuring them of ultimate judicial victory. The same leaders successfully solicited the support of local government officials who are quick to exploit the situation for political reasons. The same leaders are now declaring that they will resort to methods "outside the legal system" which is an open defiance of the law and the taking of the law into their own hands. After losing their court battles, the same leaders, not surprisingly, would now resort to press propaganda, street demonstrations and rallies and other forms of "forum shopping" in their desperation.

Notwithstanding the fact that our company is secure in its legal position and can very well take over the property by judicial process, Carmel is aware of its social responsibility. At present, Carmel is now finalizing arrangements with the government agencies concerned such as the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), to provide on-site low-cost relocation areas for Pangarap Village residents who are deserving, qualified and truly need decent housing as well as off-site relocation projects within Metro Manila to complement the much needed housing programs of the government. This massive undertaking would require a financial sacrifice on the part of the landowner because the relocation areas could otherwise be developed into more lucrative upscale residences.

Lastly, we commend the peaceful, orderly, lawful and efficient manner in which the demolition order was implemented and which was achieved through the valuable assistance and coordination between the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police through Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay and Gen. Vidal Querol, Northern District director-NCR, as requested by the sheriff's office of the MTC Caloocan City, Branch 51.

—R. MORA FAUSTINO, president, Carmel Development Inc., 21/F Citibank Tower, Valero cor. Villar Streets, Makati City



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pilot at center of plane crash probe

GIMHAE, South Korea—Air China pilot Wu Xinlu remained in a hospital intensive care unit on Tuesday as his actions became the focus of the inquiry into the South Korea air disaster.

The 32-year-old pilot, who suffered head and face injuries in Monday's crash, is to be questioned by a joint South Korean-Chinese investigation into the crash.

The Air China Boeing 767-200 plane smashed into a fog shrouded hill near the South Korean city of Busan after being blown off course by strong winds.

So far the jet's Chinese captain has said little about the jet's final moments.

But pilot error is one possible cause highlighted by South Korean media, along with a control tower mistake and the bad weather that hit the region Monday.

Rescue workers assisted by sniffer dogs recovered a body and a cockpit voice recorder Tuesday from the mangled wreckage of the airliner which had 166 people on board.

The discovery of the body pushed to 121 the death toll in Monday's crash. Thirty-eight people survived and seven others were listed as missing, police said.

The death toll could rise because many of the survivors were in serious or critical condition, they said. One person pulled from the aircraft's broken fuselage died at a hospital earlier Tuesday.

Kim Jong-hee, transport policy chief at South Korea's transportation ministry, said no hasty conclusions would be released but defended the air control tower.

"An investigation into a plane crash can take months or years. We'd better not jump to the conclusion," he told the YTN television channel.

The official strongly denied that the Chinese plane might have been misguided by the control tower however.

"Pilots make decisions for landing after being fed with information from control towers. It is pilots, not control towers, who make final decisions," said the government official.

South Korean Construction and Transportation Minister Lim In-taik, said: "We presume the accident was caused by bad weather. We have found no errors on the control tower side."

Chinese and South Korean aviation experts started their joint investigation at the crash site, Shineo mountain, early Tuesday. *AFP, AP*

A SOUTH Korean family member of a victim of the doomed flight waits for news at Gimhae City Hall, April 16. AFP

Hero saved 20 from burning China plane

SEOUL—Seol Ik-soo was hailed Tuesday as the hero of the Air China disaster after rescuing passengers from the burning wreckage and treating others on the mountainside before he collapsed.

The 27-year-old South Korean was on the Beijing-Busan flight that crashed into Shineo mount on Monday killing at least 120 people.

Seol, a travel agency trainee, said he was in the middle of the Boeing 767-200 as it prepared to land, when he saw a blue flash from the window and then lost consciousness.

After waking up, he pulled himself out of a crack in the wreckage that he said was like a "crushed Coke can" and started looking for a companion, college teacher, Lee Kang-dae, among the bodies and survivors screaming for help.

Seol told journalists how he returned into the smoldering debris, thick with stench of burning flesh, found the teacher and carried him back out on his back.

Bleeding from a cut under his left eye, Seol and others went through the wreckage, pulling out some survivors and helping others by covering their wounds with strips torn from their clothes.

For two hours in pouring rain, he carried or helped some 20 survivors down the steep slope of the mountain which the jet slammed into as it tried to land at Gimhae airport in the southern city of Busan.

"I had no other thoughts but to rescue as many people as possible before I lost consciousness," Seol told journalists.

"I don't know where the energy came from but I felt as if I was carrying stuff as light as a sheet of newspaper," he said.

About 10 high school boys, who helped carry injured survivors down the hillside, were also praised alongside the hundreds of rescuers and volunteers who worked through the night in pouring rain. *AFP*

Gusmao heads for landslide win in Timor

DILI, East Timor—Independence hero Xanana Gusmao was heading for a landslide victory in East Timor's historic first presidential election, with more than half the votes counted on Tuesday.

Gusmao, a former guerrilla chief in the battle against Indonesia, had almost 81 percent of the valid votes after counting was completed in seven out of 13 districts, said Chief Electoral Officer Carlos Valenzuela.

Some 207,728 votes or 55 percent of the total had been counted so far. Gusmao had 161,699, his sole challenger Francisco Xavier do Amaral had 38,594 and the rest were spoiled votes.

Gusmao scored more than 94 percent in Los Palos and lost in only one district—Aileu, the heartland of Amaral's political party.

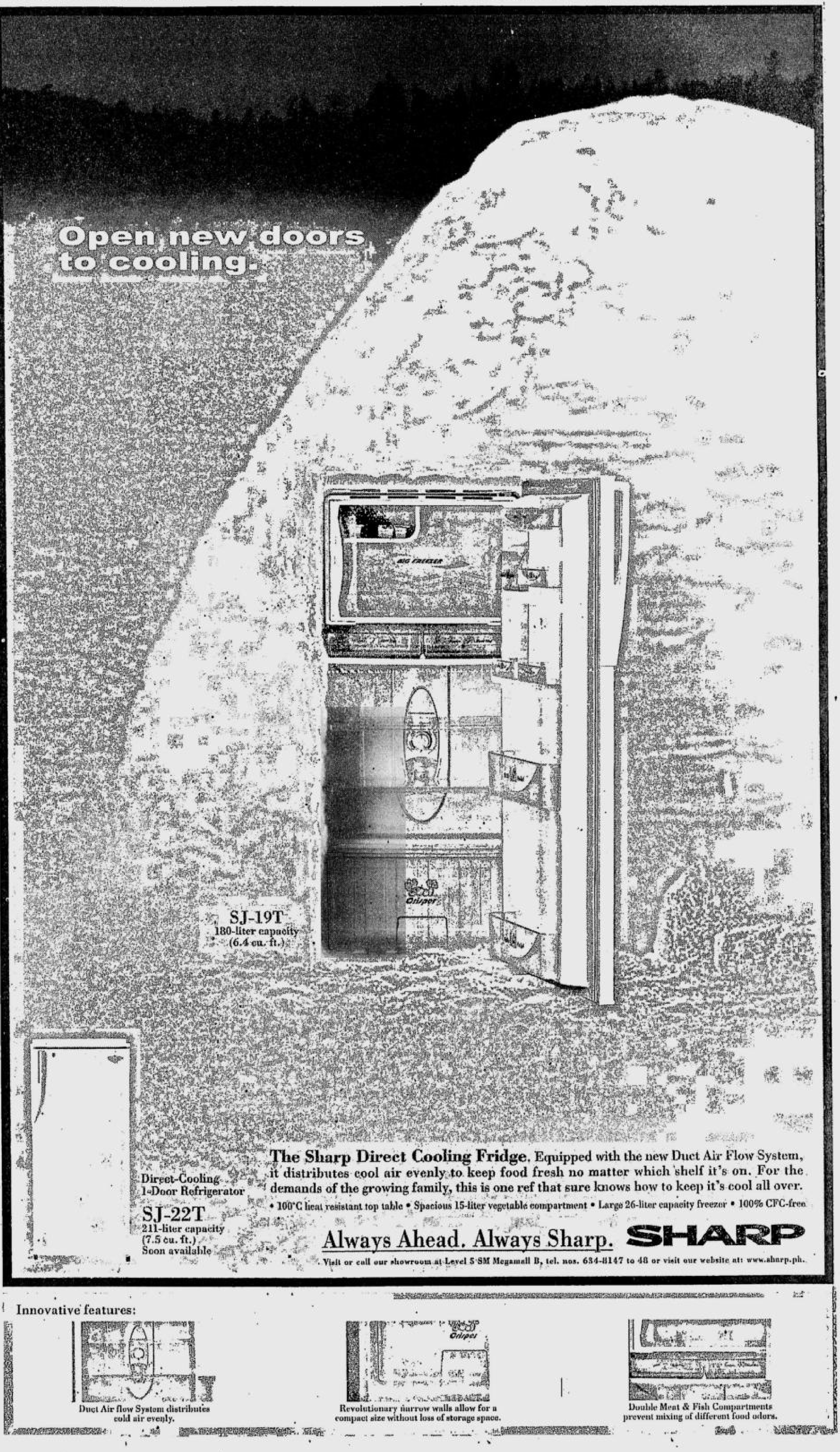
Details of the spoilt ballots were not immediately available.

Gusmao and his campaign staff have reported attempts by supporters of the territory's ruling party, Fretilin to push people either to spoil their ballots or to vote for Amaral.

The apparent aim was to reduce Gusmao's majority and his future influence as president.

East Timor will achieve independence at midnight on May 19/20, after more than four centuries as a neglected Portuguese colony, 24 years as a harshly ruled Indonesian province and 31 months of United Nations stewardship.

Gusmao, 55, a charismatic former anti-Indonesia guerrilla, had been widely tipped to sweep the polls regardless of any interference. Veteran politician Amaral, 66, had indicated he was standing only to ensure a democratic contest. *AFP*



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Video shows 9/11 bomber reading last will

DOHA—Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV broadcast Monday a videotape of a Sept. 11 suicide bomber defiantly reading his last will and said it was the first proof that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network carried out the attacks on the United States.

"We killed them outside their land and we will kill them on their own turf today," Ahmad al-Haznawi al-Ghamdi, a bearded young Saudi, announced in a strident voice.

He said in a "message addressed to the whole world, friends and foes alike," that "the time of humiliation and enslavement is over and the time has come to kill the Americans on their own turf . . . next to their forces and intelligence services."

"The time has come to prove to the whole world that the United States put on a garb that was not tailored for it when it had the mere thought of resisting the mujahideen (fighters)."

"Let me be among those whose death gives life to a whole nation," he said.

Ghamdi, wearing fatigues and a black and white Palestinian keffiyeh or headdress, concluded with a repeated request that God accept him as a "martyr" and admit him to paradise.

Recorded later on the same tape, the first showing one of the presumed suicide bombers, al-Qaida number two Ayman al-Zawahri termed the Sept. 11 attacks "a great victory."

He was shown sitting outside in the open with suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden, who remained silent.

"This great victory was achieved only thanks to the grace of God the Almighty, not due to any skill or competence on our part," Zawahri said.

"God chooses from among his worshippers those who deserve His grace . . . and he favored the 19 brethren with the victory we are enjoying today," he said in a reference to the 19 mostly Saudi bombers suspected of having crashed planes in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania last September.

The Doha-based satellite channel said the video was made in the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, southern Afghanistan, "six months" before the attacks on the United States.

An Islamic date seen on the text Ghamdi read converts to March 6, 2001.

Reacting to the tape, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said it appeared to be a "patchwork of clips" from last year.

"The impression is it is not new," the defense secretary said. "The tape is new but it does not reflect anything of UBL (Osama bin Laden) from recent periods."

Rumsfeld said he had not reached any conclusion from the tape as to whether Bin Laden was alive or dead.

Al-Jazeera said it had been able to check the identity of the presumed suicide bomber and he was named on a US Federal Bureau of Investigation list of suspects. *AFP*

اخرجوا المشركين
من جزيرة العرب

SEPTEMBER 11 suicide bomber Ahmad al-Ghambi defiantly reading his last will and testament in excerpts from a videotape shown by the Qatar-based al-Jareeza news channel. Al-Jareeza said the tape was the first proof that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network carried out the attacks in the US. AFP

Powell to see Sharon, Arafat anew in peace bid

JERUSALEM—Israeli forces rolled back into the West Bank city of Tulkarm on Tuesday hours after US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he would hold fresh talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a bid to secure a ceasefire.

The announcement of more meetings by Powell, entering the sixth day of a peace mission after 18 months of bloodshed, followed a pledge by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to pull out within a week from two other West Bank cities and a proposal for a regional peace conference.

Witnesses in Tulkarm said tanks swept in from several directions in the early hours in what an Israeli military source said was "a limited operation to arrest Palestinian militants."

There were no immediate reports of fighting.

Announcing Powell's plans earlier, US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said: "Secretary of State Powell will meet with Prime Minister Sharon late tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon. We are also making arrangements to meet with Chairman (Yasser) Arafat on Wednesday morning.

US President George W. Bush, travelling in Iowa, spoke to Sharon by telephone for 15 minutes on Monday and the president found Sharon's promise to start a withdrawal a positive development, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"The president expressed his belief that this will increase the prospects to bring peace to the region," Fleischer said.

"The president urged the prime minister to consider the human dimensions and to improve human conditions throughout the West Bank."

As Powell pursues his mission, few Israelis are in a mood to celebrate Independence Day, marking the 54th anniversary of the creation of the Jewish state.

Israel remembers its war dead in a ceremony on Tuesday night and the annual independence celebrations immediately begin.

Powell, who visited Lebanon and Syria on Monday in a bid to avert the creation of a second Middle East battlefront, last held separate talks with Sharon and Palestinian President Arafat on Sunday.

Sharon on Monday announced his timetable for a partial withdrawal a day after Powell urged him to halt the 17-day-old military onslaught and hours after soldiers seized Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouthi, 42, considered to be one of Arafat's potential successors.

The Israeli leader said his forces would be out of Jenin—where they had seen the fiercest fighting—within a "couple of days" and would leave Nablus in "not more than a week."

But he gave no hint of when they would leave Ramallah, where Arafat has been penned in by Israeli tanks, and Bethlehem, where soldiers remain in an armed standoff with Palestinian gunmen in the Church of the Nativity.

"We're on the way out," Sharon said in an interview with CNN. Israel moved into the West Bank on March 29 after a wave of suicide bombings which killed scores of Israelis.

Israeli forces left Tulkarm and Qalqilya a week ago after intense US and international pressure to begin a withdrawal. *Reuters*

Chavez invites backers of coup to advisory body

CARACAS—A government advisory council will bring together Tuesday all sectors of society to discuss Venezuela's future, as President Hugo Chavez chooses reconciliation over vengeance on his return to power after being overthrown.

"I'm calling everyone, business leaders, political parties, the church, the heads of communication media, to dialogue," Chavez said Monday, addressing groups that had signed a charter March 4 calling for his removal.

Chavez met with reporters for the first time since he was restored to power Sunday after a coup that lasted less than two days. A self-declared provisional government had detained Chavez but collapsed Saturday, in the face of riots, international pressure and military opposition.

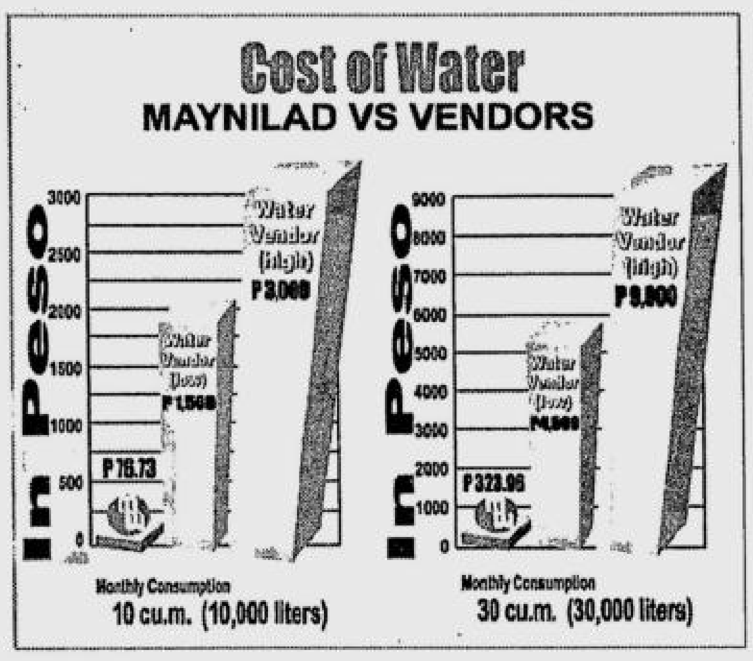
Venezuela had returned nearly to normal Monday as shopkeepers sifted through the rubble left by looters after days of violent protests in which 41 people died and 323 were injured, according to fire officials.

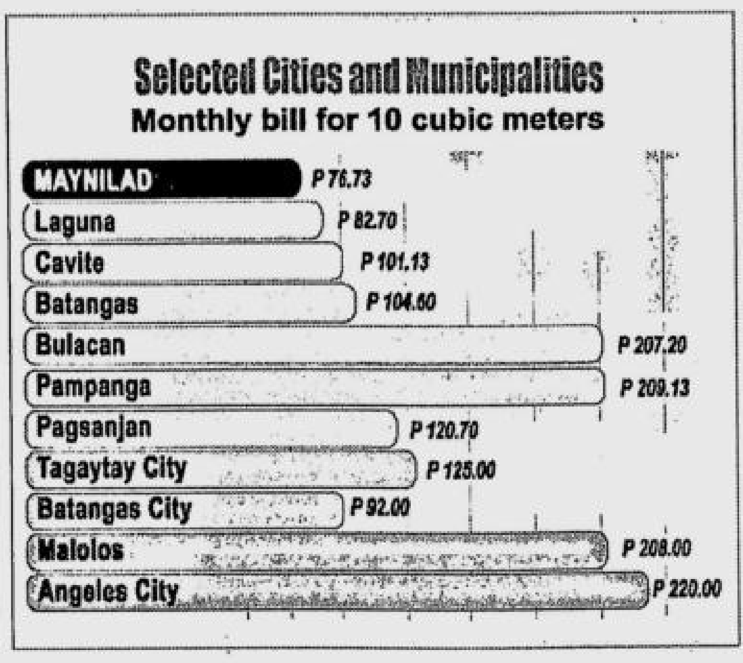
In a conciliatory move, Chavez announced businessman Pedro Carmona, leader of the interim government, would be allowed to return home to await trial on charges of rebellion. Carmona later was released from custody and placed under house arrest.

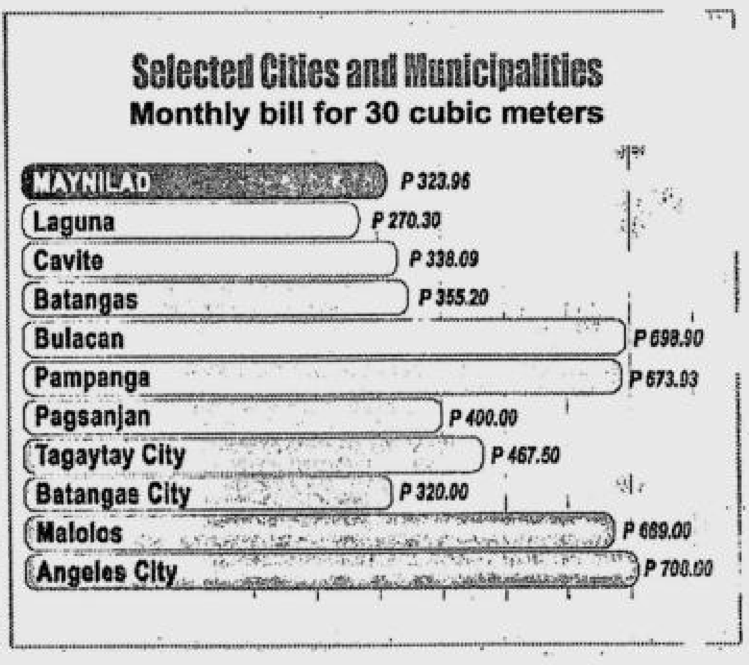
Five military coup leaders remain in custody and face charges of rebellion, Defense Minister Jose Vicente Rangel said. *AFP*

ADVISORY TO MAYNILAD RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

The MWSS approved in October 2001 a graduated tariff adjustment for both concessionaires after a thorough review. All legal processes were complied with, including the holding of public consultations. Maynilad Water's first adjustment took effect on Oct. 20, 2001. The second adjustment was on January 1, 2002. A third adjustment will be made in July 2002. With the first two adjustments, the basic water rate for the urban poor went up by only P0.008 per liter, or less than one centavo per liter for 10 cubic meters or less. Maynilad Water's tariffs are comparatively cheaper than the water vendors and provincial water.







The rate adjustments will allow Maynilad to recover its huge foreign exchange losses when the peso plunged against the dollar from P26.30 in 1997 to P52 in 2001. In 1997, Maynilad inherited MWSS's debts totalling $800 million. The value of the debt doubled from P20 billion in 1997 to P40 billion in 2001.

No one---the government, the MWSS creditors, or Maynilad---foresaw in 1997 that the peso would drop to this level.

The first adjustment of P0.004 per liter allows Maynilad to recover a portion of its forex losses from August 1997 to December 2000. It is effective until December this year. The second adjustment of another P0.004 per liter implements the Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA). It adjusts Maynilad's tariff upward or downward on a quarterly basis,depending on the peso's movement. The third adjustment will account for the unrecovered portion of the forex losses from August 1997 to December 2000 and subsequent forex losses. The recovery will be spread out over four years to lessen the impact on the consumers.

The three adjustments aim to restore lender confidence in the project, leading to a long-term loan of $350 million Maynilad hopes to obtain by the end of this year. The loan is crucial to Non-Revenue Water reduction; service delivery improvement; and---after the MWSS delivers on its commitment---additional water for Paranaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and parts of Cavite.

We recognize that these are difficult times and that the people's service delivery expectations rise in direct proportion to the tariff rate adjustments. The adjustments are both necessary and affordable, and are Maynilad's lifelines to financial viability which will assure our valued consumers of service improvements over time.

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara. Quezon City. Philippines
TEL NOS.: (632) 4354231 / (632) 9205521 TO 49 LOC. 3591 FAX NO.: (632) 9273627
callcenter@mayniladwater.com.ph

For Inquiries: Please call our
24-Hour Hotline
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The real truth about the

THE JANCOM-VIVENDI GARBAGE PROJECT:

Harmful to the Environment and our Health
Has 19 documented violations of law
A controversial Supreme Court ruling sets 8 Dangerous Precedents
Will cost taxpayers P390 Billion more than what they should pay

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 1

"JANCOM and Vivendi's project does not violate the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

The DENR-Enviornmental Management Bureau declared that the JANCOM project violates the Clean Air Act.

"Please be informed that upon review and evaluation of your document, **this Office found your proposal a burn technology similar to incineration and not in accordance with the laws and regulation,"** and that **"it falls squarely within the prohibition."** *Environmental Management Bureau, DENR dated March 16, 2001*

"This (incinerator) is not a viable solution at this time." *Policy Paper on Incinerators, DENR, January 1997*

Authors of the Clean Air Act declare the JANCOM contract violative of the law.

Rep. J. R. Nereus Acosta and Sen. Gringo Honasan, both principal authors of the Clean Air Act **denounced the court's misinterpretation** of the ban on incineration.

Congressional investigation is now ongoing for possible impeachable and plunder cases of those involved.

RA 9003 imposes total ban on incinerators without exception.

Article 1 "Section 2. *Declaration of Policies.* (d) Ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practice in ecological waste management, **EXCLUDING INCINERATION**." *R.A. 9003, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act*

The World Bank has declared incineration to be ineffective.

"Incineration is not an effective option to dispose of municipal solid waste in the Philippines because of unsuitable technical characteristics of the waste (high moisture content and low calorific value) high construction and operating costs and attendant environmental risks due to weak monitoring and enforcement." *Robert Vance Pulley, World Bank Country Director, March 20, 2002, Manila Standard*

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 2

"There could be no overprice in the cost of the project. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SPENDING A SINGLE CENTAVO FOR THE PROJECT."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

The Filipino people will pay P443 Billion instead of P53 Billion as required by law and World Bank estimates, resulting in an overprice of up to P390 Billion!!! over 25 years.

"The **CLIENT (government) agrees to pay the BOT Company (JANCOM)** on a monthly basis the Tipping Fees ... that the CLIENT may obtain a **PERFORMANCE UNDERTAKING** to be issued by the Department of Finance **TO GUARANTEE THE PAYMENT OF SERVICES** to be rendered by the BOT Company." *Article 7 (Tipping Fee/Sources of Revenue), JANCOM Contract*

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 3

"No anomaly or irregularity attended the bidding and negotiation on the project...It was required to post a bid bond for P76.44 million."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

THE BIDDING WAS RIGGED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF BIDDING PROCESS!

"To fast track the project in view of the scheduled state visit of His Excellency to Australia, **we arranged with the prequalified proponents to allow only the JANCOM to bid."** *Dionisio dela Serna (CORD-NCR), Confidential Memo to Pres. Fidel V. Ramos, July 25, 1995*

"The PBAC and EXCOM are prepared **to award a contract to JANCOM** for the BOT iimplementation of the San Mateo waste disposal site upon its complying with the minimum requirements of the project." *Memorandum of Agreement signed by Dionisio dela Serna and Jay Alparslan (JANCOM Chairman) dated August 4, 1995.* Thus, **PRIOR to completion of bidding process**, JANCOM was already promised the contract!

NO BID BOND: BIDDING DECLARED A FAILURE!

JANCOM failed to post a bid bond during the scheduled submission of bids. "It was moved and seconded that the JANCOM proposal be rejected for failure to post a bid security. The **Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) unanimously passed the motion to reject the JANCOM proposal ... The PBAC then unanimously declared a failed bidding."** *Minutes of Meeting PBAC, dated August 5, 1996*

Per the BOT Law, the proponent **should have been disqualified** and the project should have been rebidded. Instead, certain government officials extended the deadline for the submission of bid bond just to accommodate JANCOM in violation of Section 7.1 and 7.5 of the IRR of the BOT Law.

Even with the illegal extension, JANCOM posted an insufficient bid bond. Per Section 7.1 of the IRR of the BOT Law, the bid bond should be not less than 1.5% of the project cost. **JANCOM only submitted a bid bond of P76.44 million which is only 0.81% of the project cost** of $377 million, as stipulated in their contract.

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 4

"Jancom and Vivendi's tipping fee of $59 for the thermal plant or $32 for a sanitary landfill are reasonable and lowest in the world."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

Effective Tipping Fee is over $80.00 per ton because of other hidden costs beyond the $59.00 per ton.

"The expected tipping fees of about US$80.00 per ton of waste is **way above the means of MMDA and LGUs.** Current budgetary sources can not also provide the balance in tipping fees." *Minutes of Meeting, ICC-NEDA Technical Board, Aug. 16, 1999*

Landfill fees should only be between $10-$20 per ton, not $32.

World Bank standard rate for tipping fee for sanitary landfill/composting/materials recovery facility is **$10-$20 per ton.** *World Bank Development Report 1994, Sandra Cointreau-Levine, Waste Management Engineer, World Bank*

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 5

"Former Pres. Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada did not reject Jancom and Vivendi's contract."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

Pres. Fidel V. Ramos rejected the contract and sent it back to ICC-NEDA.

"After due thought and consideration of this subject, I now **do not recommend approval** of the contract ...." *Memorandum to Pres. Fidel V. Ramos by Executive Secretary Alexander Aguirre dated May 15, 1998, which President FVR approved.*

President Estrada rejected the contract because it never got ICC-NEDA approval and deviated from the bid terms.

The Investment Coordination Council of the National Economic Development Authority (ICC-NEDA) repudiated the contract THRICE under three administrations, (Presidents Ramos, Estrada and Macapagal-Arroyo) because of deviations from the original terms. *ICC-NEDA letters dated Dec 1997, Sept. 1999 and Nov. 2001*

JANCOM CLAIM NO. 6

"There is no issue involving ownership of JANCOM."

DOCUMENTED TRUTH:

Two factions are fighting over the ownership of JANCOM Environmental Corporation (Phils).

The first faction is composed of Leonides Gonzales, Toby Gan, Bernadette Paras, Alfonso Tuzon and Manuel Molina while the other faction is composed of JANCOM International Development Projects Pty Limited (Australia), Jay Alparslan and Linda F. Martinel.

Criminal Case No. I-SH02-B-1631 filed by one faction;
Civil Case 02-338 (Branch 138) filed by the other faction.

Both cases are pending in court.

AN APPEAL TO Her Excellency GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

We are among the many non-governmental organizations and individuals who have been fighting JANCOM. Some of us have been battling them for eight years.

We deplore the brazen violation of laws of our land for the economic gain of a select few. We deplore the manipulation of the Philippine legal system to benefit foreign private interests at the expense of the majority of the Filipino people -- this generation and the next.

We appeal to the President to, once and for all, listen to her people.

Once and for all, the President should declare this contract not just unsignable, not just for review and study, but aborted.

Finally, we call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to independently investigate those individuals who have put together this greatest anomaly in Philippine history.

15

GIDEON JAVIER
Clean Air Coalition

FR. BENIGNO BELTRAN
Smokey Mountain Resource Recovery Center

LIWAYWAY VINZONS-CHATO
St. Thomas More & Associates

ANA UGARTE
Bantay Kalikasan

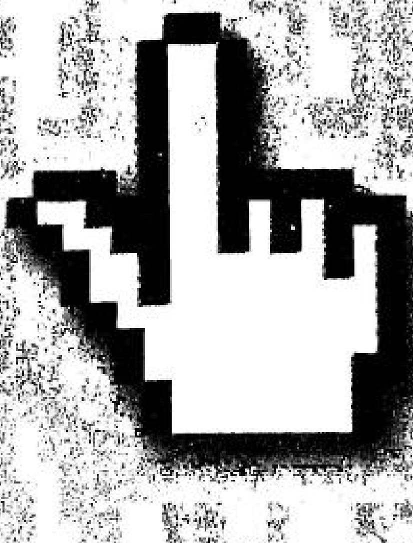
DR. METODIO PALAYPAY
Recycling Movement of the Philippines
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution

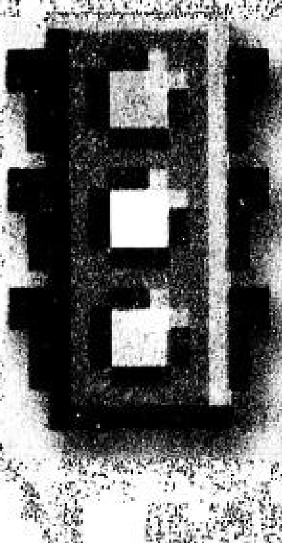
ESTER PEREZ DE TAGLE
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution

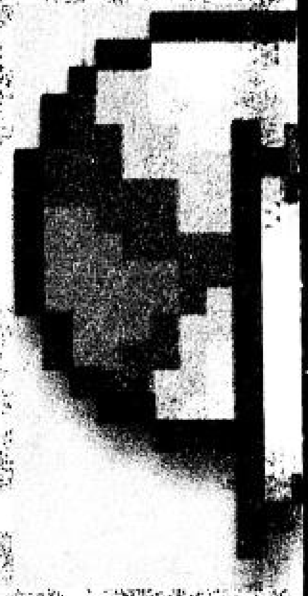
LOU VALENCIA-ARSENIO
ADVOCACY OFFICER
CARITAS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA

STEPH. LEGASTO
Citizens' National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC)

PLDT
convergence@home







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2. Double-click "Make New Connection".

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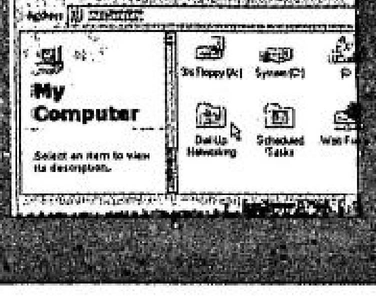
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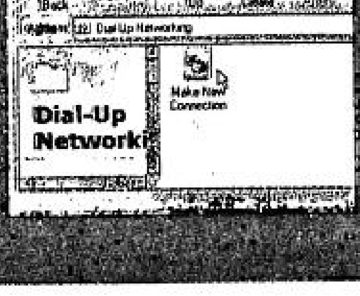
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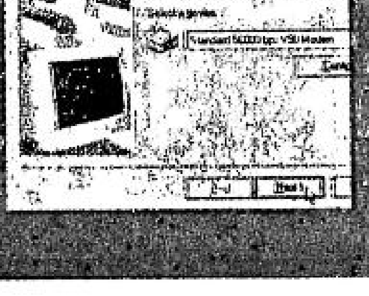
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n "Finish".

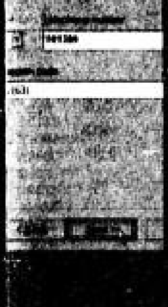
5. Go back to the Dial-up Networking folder and right click on PLDT Vibe Dialer and select "Properties". Uncheck the "Use Area Code and Dialing Properties" check box.

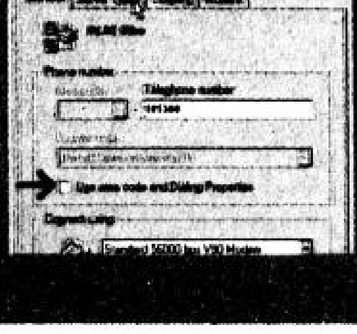
6. Select the "Server Types" tab. Make sure that the "Type of Dial-up Server" uses PPP and that the only items that are checked are "Enable Software Compression" and "TCP/IP". Click "OK".

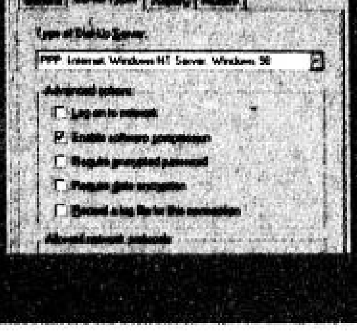
7. Right click on the PLDT Vibe dialer again and select "Create Shortcut". When asked, click "Yes" to create the shortcut on your Desktop.

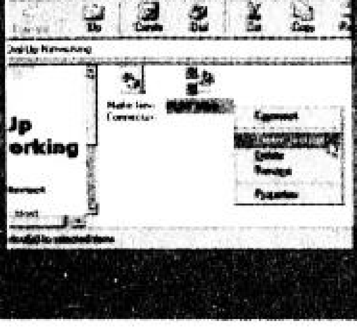
8. To start surfing, double-click on the "shortcut to PLDT Vibe" dialer icon on your Desktop. Then enter "pldt" on the username field and "vibe" on the password field on the dialer then click on the "connect" button.

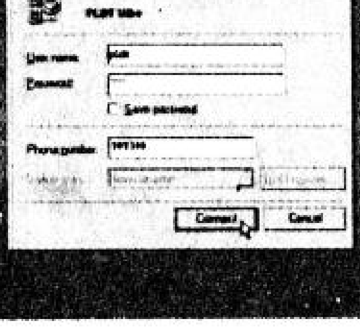
9. As soon as you are connected to PLDT Vibe, just click on your browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator) to start surfing.











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- Modem (56K modem
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- Postpaid PLDT residential phone

For more information, call 171 (for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao), or 1-800-1-888-9090 (for North and South Luzon).

*PLDT Vibe e-mail addresses available on May 16, 2002.

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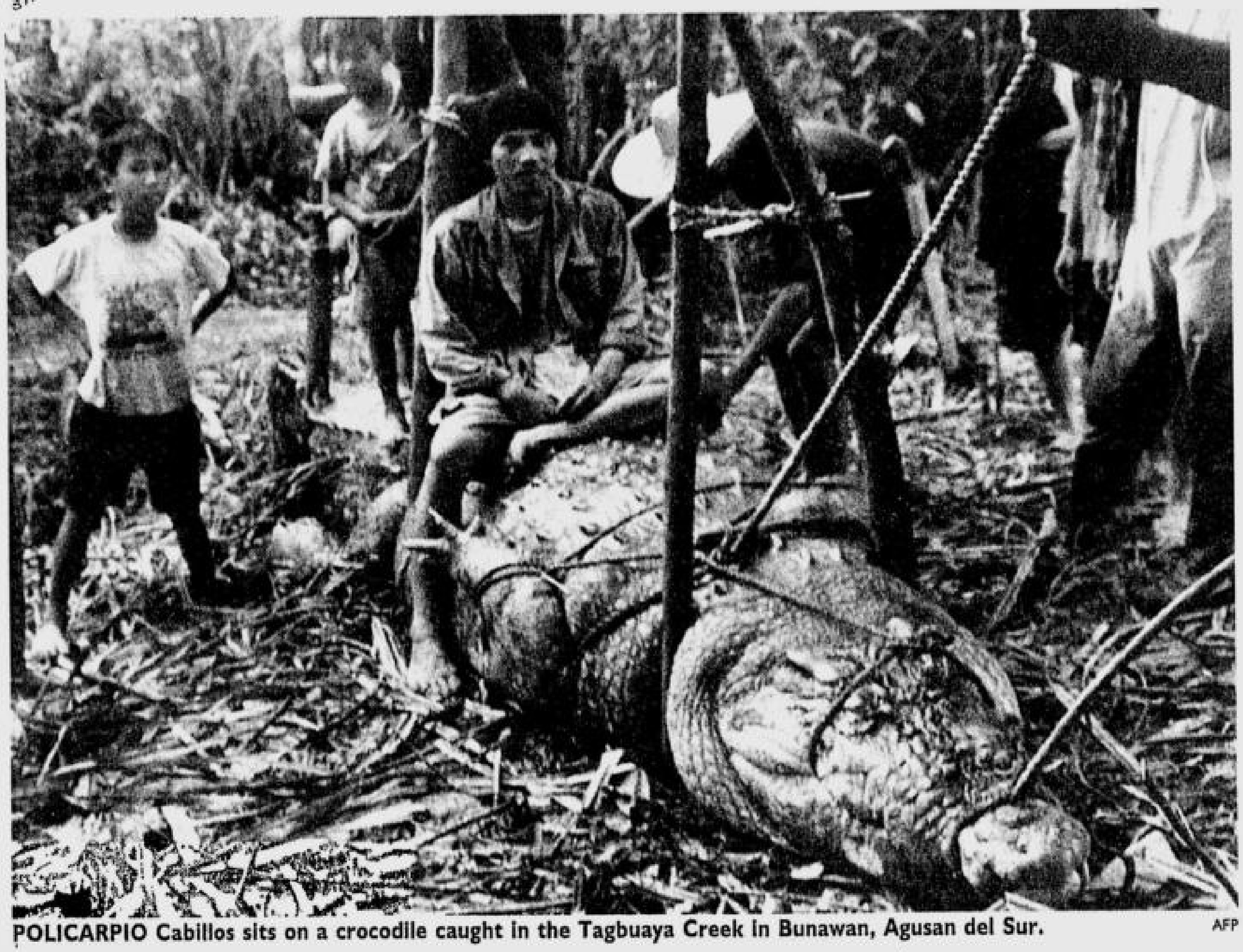

POLICARPIO Cabillos sits on a crocodile caught in the Tagbuaya Creek in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur. AFP

Villagers probed for killing, eating croc

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUNAWAN, Agusan del Sur--Several residents of Sitio Mandagaw, Barangay Poblacion here could face charges of violating the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Law, after butchering a 19-foot long crocodile (*Crocodilia Mindorensis*.)

A fisherman from the Tagbuaya Lake captured the reptile, believed to be 40 years old, on April 5.

A team of village and environment officials began formal investigation into the killing of the crocodile, considered an endangered species.

The Nipas Law prescribes that hunting, destroying, disturbing or mere possession of any endangered plants or animals is illegal and is punishable with a fine of P5,000 up to more than P500,000, or imprisonment of one year up to six years, or both, as determined by the court.

Initial reports said Policarpio Cabillos, a resident, intentionally trapped the crocodile, which was estimated to weigh 1,500 kilos, blaming it for his dwindling fish catch.

But Cabillos told the INQUIRER that he was not aware that his trap had caught the reptile. He said other fishermen only told him about it.

Cabillos said he did not even know what to do with the crocodile and immediately sought the opinion of a barangay official. He said he was told not to harm the reptile.

Kagawad Arian Amero said he personally supervised the release of the crocodile.

He said the crocodile apparently became weak after having been tightly bound, and died a day later.

Cabillos said villagers who saw the dead crocodile informed the other residents and butchered it. They divided the meat and the skin among themselves.

9 more bodies found in ferry

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Coast guard divers recovered nine more bodies from the wreckage of the sunken ship MV Carmela on Tuesday morning, raising the death toll to 42.

Ensign Raul Belesario, head of the diver's team, said they retrieved the remains from several cabins, toilet and passageway on the second and third decks of the ship.

Belesario opened two body bags and showed to reporters some of the remains they retrieved.

He said the ship lay on its starboard side at a depth of 45 feet. "Some of the remains that we recovered were skulls. All were severely burned."

He added there were no items near the remains that could help in identifying them. "We're very careful with our movements as we might stir the water and make the place dark for the operation."

Although they had with them a plan of the ill-fated ship, they still found it hard to locate the different compartments, he said.

He declined to tell how long the retrieval operation would take. "We will only stop when we're sure there are no more human remains to retrieve," he said.

Coast Guard officials accused the members of the fire-fighting team aboard another Montenegro Shipping Lines vessel of dousing the ship with too much water several minutes before it capsized in the Tayabas Bay.

Lt. Commander Elfidio Gunio, head of the Coast Guard detachment here, said Chief Insp. Jose Enbang, head of the Bureau of Fire Protection and search-and-rescue team, ignored his call to stop the water bombardment.

"What he reported that I never asked him to stop were all lies. I ordered him to stop because the water line of the ship was already at the critical level. But his team still continued to bombard it with water for about five minutes more," Gunio told newsmen.

The Coast Guard official revealed that the firemen only used "cold foam" once. "But during the succeeding efforts to put off the fire, there were no more chemicals. They only used water siphoned from the sea," he said.

"That's the main reason why the ship sank," Gunio stressed.

The same observation was shared by Kiyotoka Noma, a Japanese Coast Guard commander and search-and-rescue expert, who is helping the Coast Guard in the underwater retrieval operation.

The ship was reportedly carrying at least 324 passengers, 81 of whom were not listed on the passenger manifest.

Relatives of the missing passengers have accused the Montenegro Shipping Co., owner of the vessel, of "maneuvering" to have the ship sunk to erase any evidence of negligence.

The skeletal remains were temporarily deposited at Funeraria Pagbilao here for safekeeping before these are studied for identification.

Senior Insp. Rufina Baldovino, Quezon crime laboratory chief, has called on close relatives of the missing passengers to submit themselves for tissue sampling for the DNA test.

Search for
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OF PATROL 117

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Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
Guest of Honor

April 17,2002
Heroes Hall
Malacanang Palace

1 arrested, 4 hurt in anti-Balikatan rally dispersal

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A student activist was arrested while four others were hurt on Monday during the violent dispersal of a rally against the holding of the Balikatan 02-2 war exercises in Luzon.

Reports here said two Clark Development Corp. policemen grabbed Christian Ocampo, dragged him and shoved him inside a CDC security car that sped off to an unknown destination inside the zone.

The Youth for Nationalism and Democracy, which staged the rally at 10:30 a.m. at the Clark main gate, identified those hurt as YND national chair Djoannalyn Janier and members, Jackielyn Castro, Princess Yadao and Derek Cabe.

They showed bruises on the arms and complained of pains in their chests, arms and legs.

The rally, which caught CDC security personnel by surprise, drew about 50 YND leaders from various universities in Central Luzon.

Violence erupted when at least three CDC policemen arrested Ocampo for vandalism. The guards accused him of writing anti-US slogans on the main gate's pavement.

Four more CDC policemen shoved back and kicked Janier, Castro, Yadao and Cabe who held on to Ocampo to prevent his arrest.

The tug-of-war ensued for about five minutes.

A CDC policeman, whose nameplate identified him only by his surname Tolentino, hit this correspondent with a nightstick on the left breast as she was trying to get a close view of the melee.

About 10 CDC policemen prevented the protesters from helping their leaders.

The activists threatened not to leave until after Ocampo, 23, was released. They marched in a roving picket, their hands raising posters and streamers condemning the war games that they claimed were making the Philippines "a laboratory to train US war tactics for its war of aggression."

Tension worsened when CDC authorities deployed more security personnel and blocked the gate with a fire truck.

Clean-up crusader appeals to US solons

By Tonette Orejas
PDI C.. Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—An American woman, who pioneered in her country the campaign to clean up the two former US military bases in the Philippines, has urged US senators to put the issue on the legislative agenda.

Polly Parks asked US Senators Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Ted Stevens of Alaska to "introduce the necessary legislation" and to "authorize . . . to appropriate the necessary funding to undertake a baseline study" in Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales.

Inouye and Stevens are members of the US Senate committees on armed services and appropriations that supervise and fund the cleanup of American military facilities in the US and other countries.

Parks suggested these actions after Inouye and Stevens told Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. that support from the US would come after a "determination that the toxic waste did not come from the Mt. Pinatubo eruption."

The two senators, on the last leg of their Southeast Asian tour, came to the Philippines and met Guingona early this month.

Inouye assured that the issue would be "brought up to the highest authorities." "We're not scientists so we're not really in a position to discuss the matter," he added.

Stevens required a "process," saying that "we just don't sign checks. As soon as we get back, we'll meet with the highest authorities to discuss this."

Parks, in a statement sent by electronic mail to the INQUIRER, commended Inouye and Stevens for proposing to determine the source of the toxic wastes and promising to raise the issue to the highest US authorities.

"Outside of themselves and their colleagues in the (US) Senate and House (of Representatives), that would indicate they plan to talk to (US) President (George W.) Bush.

Knowing these senators' integrity, I am sure they will keep their word," she said.

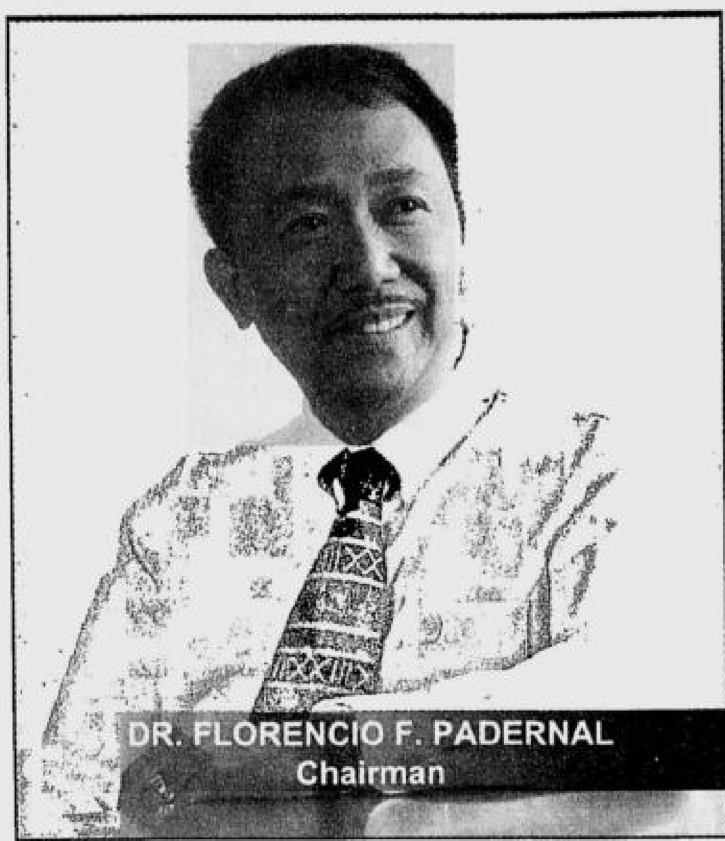
However, she said the task of undertaking an environmental baseline study, which will require an extensive analysis on the groundwater and soil, was "not a blank check."

She said the US military services have "refined what the budget requirements are for this step in the cleanup process both at US facilities and in US bases in other nations."

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

A Decade of Building a Globally Competitive Philippines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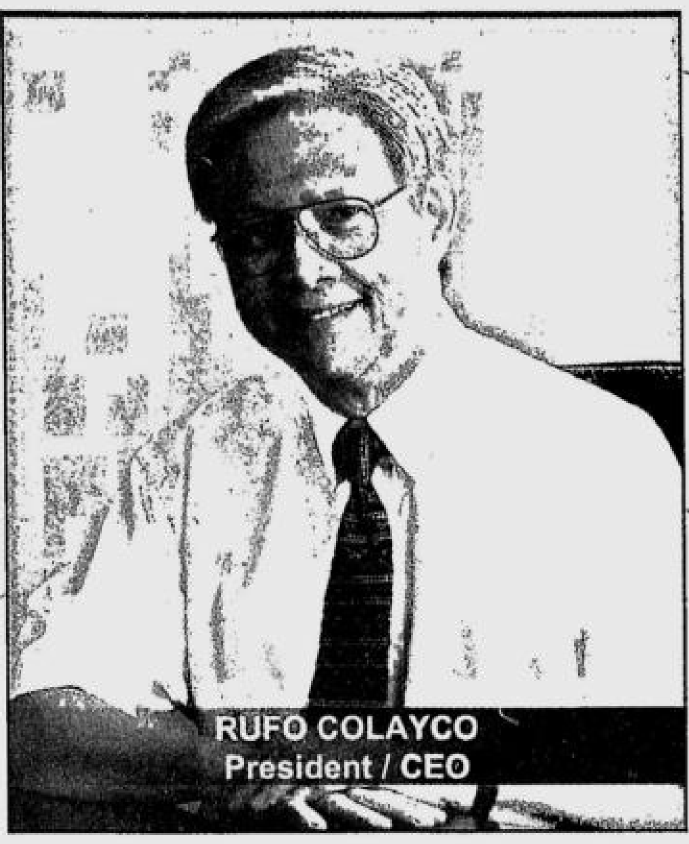

RUFO COLAYCO
President / CEO

Transforming Military Baselands into Centers of Business and Industry

A wave of transformation is sweeping the lands that used to be part of the country's military complex. These baselands now stand at the forefront of the government's ambitious plans to propel the Philippines into the global marketplace through world-class and competitive industrial and business centers.

Fort Bonifacio's Global City, Subic Bay's Freeport and industrial park, Clark Airbase's international aviation complex and factories, John Hay's tourism facilities and prime pineland forests: these are now home to some of the hottest local and international business concerns in the Philippines today.

Things would definitely become better once the Poro Point Freeport in San Fernando, La Union develops itself into Northern Luzon's premier shipping center and once the NorthRail, a modern railway system, connects Manila to Clark, and Clark to Ilocandia.

To ensure that this transformation continues well into the future, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has already initiated several development blueprints, including the NorthRail as well as the Subic-Tarlac-Clark Tollway. These are designed to spread the fruits of development further to the heart of Luzon island and to the north.

Heading the Authority is a formidable partnership that is strong in the fundamentals of planned development and hardnosed business sense. This partnership is composed of BCDA Chairman of the Board Dr. Florencio F. Padernal, an engineer and formerly a World Bank development consultant; and BCDA President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rufo Colayco, an investments expert and a property developer.

Both Chairman Padernal and President Colayco, despite their differing backgrounds, share the same vision of continuing the BCDA's role as a major player in the country's emergence as a global player through prudent and transparent management of former military assets.

A DECADE OF THE BCDA

In its ten years of existence, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is proving itself as a reliable development arm of the government. With its resources, it has helped create centers of business and industry that are globally competitive. It also ensured that the benefits of its development efforts would spread to the adjacent communities, specially in Metro Manila and Central Luzon.

When the BCDA was created in 1992, many thought it would end up a white elephant, given the long list of special development bodies created out of political patronage. Throughout the decade punctuated by economic uncertainties and political squabbles, the Authority has managed to hold on and position itself as a competent administrator of some of the country's premier industrial complexes created from former military camps.

Since 1993, the BCDA was able to remit more than P25 billion to the national treasury, the bulk of which consisted of revenues from the sale of some properties in military camps in Metro Manila, particularly in Fort Bonifacio. Since it took over the former American military bases in Clark and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in Subic, it has generated a total employment of 109,981 workers or double that before their closure.

Through coordinated development efforts total investment in the Clark and Subic ecozones has reached $4.024 billion and this promises to grow bigger as the necessary communications and other service infrastructure are put into place.

THE GLOBAL CITY: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

With the World Trade Organization (WTO) in place plus the fact that the cost of doing business in the Philippines is steadily rising, making the country more competitive in the global marketplace is very vital. The BCDA is doing its part by setting world-class standards for the sustainable development of former military camps in Fort Bonfacio and Villamor Airbase in Metro Manila and erstwhile baselands in Clark, Subic and John Hay in the north.

It is the Authority's vision to make Fort Bonifacio the country's Global City, whose amenities and facilities are comparable with the best urban standards in the world. The architectural and technological designs in the place are distinctive and impressive, such as the Pacific Plaza Towers and the Essensa East Forbes. The Ayala Land Inc. is now developing and managing the 9.9-hectare transport hub of Global City for mixed-use development.

About 30 hectares of the Global City have also been set aside as an institutional area. Already, the four-hectare Manila Japanese School has opened its doors to students, followed by the British School Manila last year. This year, the International School Manila will complete construction of its new campus. Other locators include the Victory Leadership Institute and the Casa Montessori International prep-school.

The 5.5-hectare Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio has already started operations last year and is designed as a high-value, multi-use memorial park that has an ideal environment, aesthetic landmarks and modern interment services and facilities.

The Global City will also be home to the Bonifacio Data Center. In line with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's program under the Information Technology and E-commerce Coordinating Council or ITECC, the Bonifacio Data Center is designed to catalyze the development of e-government, IT businesses and software development in the country.

BRINGING GROWTH NORTH OF MANILA

In 2001, the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) approved 81 new investment projects by local and foreign investors who are expected to bring in more than a billion pesos in investments over the next five years. The CSEZ said its export firms earned $290 million and are projected to earn more this year. At the Subic Bay Freeport and Special Economic Zone (SBFSEZ), an additional 20,000 jobs were created last year. In 2001, its exports earned more than $1 billion, thereby becoming a top contributor to national export earnings.

Just south of Subic, the Bataan Technology Park continues to be developed with the completion of the 10-kilometer access road between the two areas. An Agri-Aqua Technology Park is planned with the Bataan Center for Innovative Science and Technology Inc. as the lead agency. This activity is expected to boost the province's local agricultural sector.

For Clark and Subic to have a meaningful impact on development north of Manila, the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Program was signed on June 19, 2001. This alliance aims to create a regional maritime and aviation logistics hub that is ideal for the manufacture, storage and movement of goods, data, and services for international distribution.

A major component of this alliance is the P20.5-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway. Launched recently, this project is funded through a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and is expected to connect the three vital development areas—Subic and Clark Ecozones and the Tarlac Industrial Estates.

This is complemented by the NorthRail Project which was initially eyed to connect Clark to Manila as part of overall efforts to develop the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as an international transport hub in Central Luzon. This project is currently being developed to eventually connect the entire railway system up to San Fernando, La Union.

Farther to the north, the BCDA has continued to develop the Poro Point Freeport in San Fernando, La Union. To make room for the port's expanded operations, the BCDA has finalized the relocation of the Voice of America broadcast facilities from its former 80 hectares home to a 15-hectare area.

And up in Baguio City, the various tourist-oriented projects in the John Hay Special Economic Zone are being completed. The area for the housing facilities of former employees of the American R&R center who have resided in the area for over 40 years now, particularly in Barangay Scout Barrio, has been parceled and will soon be distributed.

TOWARDS A STRONGER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's priority pronouncements about winning the war against poverty, the BCDA has initiated various social development projects. The most visible social component of BCDA's responsible stewardship is the implementation of socialized urban housing programs for the families affected by its activities, for which BCDA has already allocated over P3.5 billion.

In 2001 BCDA relocated more than 1,800 families joining 6,000 others who have been awarded housing units or homelots in these sites:

Philippine Centennial Village - 7.3 hectare medium-rise housing community located along C-5 Road, West Bicutan in Taguig; 1,140 units constructed; 1,128 units occupied.

Pamayanang Diego Silang - 24.6 hectare medium-rise housing community located along C-5 Road, Ususan, Taguig; 2,880 units constructed; 630 units occupied/committed.

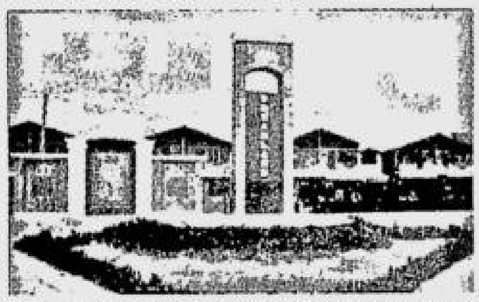
Philippine Army Village - 100 hectares located in Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac; 700 lots subdivided; 150 housing units constructed and allotted to the Philippine Army.

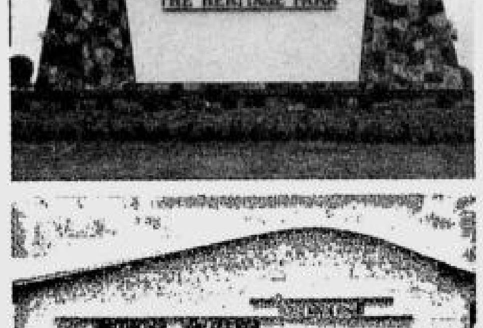
Villamor Air Base Airmen's Village - 53 hectares located in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City; 1,730 homelots awarded.

Lupang Katuparan - 48 hectare land-base relocation program divided into 4 areas; 1,135 families relocated.

Aside from these housing projects, the BCDA also provides employment opportunities, livelihood projects and community programs to affected residents. Labor centers have been set up in all the special zones. These centers recruit, screen and train manpower for the various enterprises in the zones, with preference to those residing in surrounding areas.

The BCDA has not been remiss with its mandate to generate revenues to help the government in implementing priority projects. To date, it has given P15 billion pesos to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program. Other government agencies are also major beneficiaries of the agency's asset disposition program. •





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6 NPA rebels killed in Davao clash

DAVAO CITY—Six rebels were killed when government troops attacked a New People's Army camp where a wedding ceremony was taking place in Marilog District here at around 7:30 a.m. Monday, according to the military.

Seven others were captured during the military offensive in Sitio Pangyan in Barangay Tamugan.

Maj. Vicente Tomas, deputy commander of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion, said the rebels fought back and wounded a militiaman.

Tomas identified the slain rebels as Servando and Charlie Bayanban, Edgar Blas, Jaime Daculo, Apolonio Enoc and Luisita Icanan.

The soldiers brought the bodies to the Angel Funeral Parlor in nearby Calinan District.

The wounded, Joel Pundong and Nenita Mabasag, were brought to the Davao Medical Center.

Tomas said the captured rebels—Hermogenes and Severina Canoba, Junjun Capunong, Juanito Cabesay and Gerard Neri—were taken to the 73rd IB headquarters in Malagos, Baguio District for interrogation.

Tomas said the military recovered an M-16 rifle, a .30 cal. Garand rifle, two .38 cal. revolvers, three homemade shotguns, a grenade, a handheld VHS radio, five sacks of documents and a flag of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In Sarangani, suspected NPA guerrillas ambushed a police contingent in a remote village in Maasim town at around 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

Three police officers of the provincial mobile group were wounded.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, said the victims were part of two police teams on foot patrol in Barangay Malbang, Maasim, on a mission to flush out rebels from the area.

Baluyot had earlier ordered an intensified operation against the rebels who, he said, were becoming active in the region.

Last week, a band of NPA guerrillas waylaid a police contingent in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, killing two policemen.

The NPA has intensified its attacks in several parts of Mindanao since Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison issued a call last month.

In Capiz, a suspected rebel was wounded and captured on April 9 after a clash with government troops in Tapaz town.

Dante Parle, 25, was taken to a hospital in Tapaz for treatment of bullet wounds in the shoulder and leg.

Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, commander of Task Group Panay, said troops belonging to the Alpha Company of the Army's 12th IB were conducting combat operations in Barangay Minan at about 9 a.m. when some 30 NPA rebels fired at them. ***Reports from Anthony Allada, Aquiles Zonio and Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Suspected rebels burn construction equipment

TACLOBAN CITY—Armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army burned three heavy equipment worth P10.6 million in Calbayog City on Saturday after the construction firm reportedly refused to pay "revolutionary" taxes.

Reports reaching the Police Regional Office in Eastern Visayas (PRO-8) based in Palo, Leyte showed that about 30 armed men forcibly entered a construction site at the wharf in Barangay Guinoo, Tinambacan District, Calbayog, at about 1 a.m. of April 13.

They pointed their guns at the four watchmen and torched a backhoe, a payloader and a crane.

Senior Supt. Conrado Calvario, Samar police chief, reported to Chief Supt. Nardito Yoro, PRO-8 director, that the rebels burned the equipment after Joseph Go, owner of the construction firm, refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

He said NPA rebels operating in the area have been demanding revolutionary taxes. ***Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

No Joma order to attack GIs, says NPA

By Desiree Caluza
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

SOMEWHERE IN THE CORDILLERA—Communist rebels operating here and in the Ilocos region have denied that exiled Communist Party of the Philippines leader Jose Ma. Sison has ordered them to attack American troops participating in the Balikatan exercises with Filipino soldiers.

The supposed directive of CPP Chair Armando Liwanag, believed to be the *nom de guerre* of Sison, was published in the underground Ang Bayan, official publication of the CPP.

An INQUIRER story on the Liwanag directive was based on an Agence France Presse report from Baguio City.

"Since some copies of Ang Bayan were obtained in Baguio, we have to start the denial from here, we do not want our comrades in the Cordillera and Ilocos to be misinformed that we are attacking, although they are preparing . . . if the government and US aggression reach their territories," said Ka Trio, a member of the Leonardo Pacsi Command of the New People's Army operating in Mt. Province.

Ka Trio said they would want to use the Dangadang, the publication of the NPA in the Cordillera and Ilocos, to clarify the story on the alleged threats on American troops participating in the Balikatan exercises.

"Ang Bayan is written in English. Since some of our comrades in the mountains do not understand English, we must translate and explain it in Ilocano and have it published in Dangadang to inform them that a psywar is being mounted against revolutionary rebels," Ka Trio told the INQUIRER.

Dangadang had been carrying stories from Ang Bayan in the past. It is being circulated mainly in the Cordillera and Ilocos regions.

Ka Trio said he believed that "someone in the media is being used by the military for black propaganda against the revolutionaries."

"We know that the fight is getting intense against the revolutionaries, so they are conditioning the minds of the people that we are terrorists who should be destroyed by the US," he said.

He added: "We want to say that it is not Armando Liwanag who decides entirely for the party, and whatever struggles that we have, it is a collective decision."

He said they were bothered that the issue might affect the peace talks being pursued by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the government.

However, Ka Trio said the NPA rebels in Northern Luzon are prepared for whatever offensives that the US and the government would launch against them.

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Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi34° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/17/02

ROUNDUP

Fire guts market

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—About P80 million in private and public properties were lost when a fire broke out inside the public market of Malungon, Sarangani early Tuesday. Officials said the town did not have a fire truck to control the fire, which razed at least 168 firms. Firefighters from General Santos City came but their efforts were not enough as they had difficulty refilling their water tanks. They had to rush to the Buayan River, eight kilometers away, to get water. Malungon Mayor Teody Padernilla said the town was about to buy a fire truck when the incident happened.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Grenade attack in Abra

BAGUIO CITY—A grenade exploded at the yard of the house of Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra, in the province's capital town of Bangued at about 1 a.m. last Thursday, police said, destroying the mayor's Tamaraw FX van. No one was reported hurt. Police said Benwaren's younger brother, Lenin, noticed three men on a motorcycle pass by the mayor's house on Bowen Street twice before the incident. Supporters of Benwaren's political rival, Vice Mayor Edwin Crisologo, were arrested as suspects. They were identified as Renato Ungay, 27; Jonathan Benwaren, 23; and Jefferson Labuen, 20.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

On-line job matching

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—New graduates of degree courses who are looking for jobs should register with the PHIL-JobNet for possible employment, Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., presidential adviser for job creation, said here. Lorenzo said the PHIL-JobNet, an automated job matching system promoted by the Department of Labor and Employment, could serve as an avenue for the new graduates to find jobs that suit their qualifications. Lorenzo said the graduates may avail of the system via the PHIL-JobNet web site at http://phil-jobnet.dole.gov.ph or at the DOLE offices in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Missing woman abducted?

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A 29-year-old woman has been missing since Thursday and her parents are worried that she was kidnapped. Joy Ariston, daughter of optometrist and Villa Aurora Resort owner Sarah Ariston, went missing after depositing P5,000 in a bank here. On Friday, Mrs. Ariston told police that she received a text message sent from her daughter's cell phone indicating that she was already dead. She said it was the first time that her daughter failed to inform them of her whereabouts. But Sr. Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, police regional director, , said there was no indication that Joy was abducted.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NGO office ransacked

DAVAO CITY—Unidentified suspects ransacked the office of the Urban Integrated Health Services Foundation Inc. (UIHSFI), a health-based organization identified with militant groups here, on Sunday afternoon. However, UIHSFI officials were puzzled because not one of the valuable things inside the office was missing. Dr. Shallom Lorenzana, UIHSFI executive director, said the burglars were apparently trying to find some documents.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Destructive forest fire

SAN PABLO CITY—Forester Jovito Oandasan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Laguna said it took 50 DENR personnel from Calaca, Batangas, Pagbilao, Quezon and Laguna to put out the big fire that hit a reforestation area in Barangay San Cristobal here on Wednesday and Thursday. Of the 106 hectares of reforested areas of mahogany trees, 83 hectares were severely burned, he said. He estimated damage at P1 million. Oandasan said a team would be sent to the area to assess the extent of destruction.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA storage houses

LEGAZPI CITY—Government troops on Tuesday found at least three storage houses of the New People's Army in Barangay Cariedo, Gubat, Sorsogon during pursuit operations against the rebels. Among the items recovered from the houses were four motorcycles, 35 sacks of palay, 12 bottles of dextrose, motorcycle spare parts, ammunitions and communist documents, according to Lt. Col. Manuel Garin, head of the Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion. The items were brought to the Army camp in Villahermoza, Daraga, Albay.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cafgu recruitment hit

CALAMBA CITY—A human rights group in Southern Tagalog has expressed alarm over the recruitment and training of Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) volunteers in Oriental Mindoro. Nancy Rada, head of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, claimed that local residents have been living in fear since the Cafgu training started April 4. Rada said Eldifonso Brucal, 59, of Barangay Teresita, Mansalay, was shot and killed by unknown assassins, while his daughter Emily, 19, was wounded in the legs.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Science and Technology

Science Education Institute

DOST Secretary announces 4,451 new S & T Scholars

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro announces the names of successful examinees in the 2002 Science and Technology Scholarship Examination held on 3 February 2002 in 119 test centers all over the country.

Four thousand one hundred eighteen (4,118) examinees qualified under the Science and Technology Scholarship Program of Republic Act 7687 (formerly Program A) while 333 passed under the DOST-Science Education Institute (SEI) Merit Scholarships (formerly Program B). The former program awards scholarships in 4-5 year baccalaureate degrees and 3-year technician courses while the latter provides 4-5 year BS scholarships in priority S&T courses.

A total of 22,454 examinees belonging to the top 5% of Batch 2002 high school graduates took the competitive examination.

The S&T Scholarship Programs are part of the DOST SEI's strategy to identify and nourish talented Filipino youth in science and technology who can be the future front liners of a competent workforce that will bring about more breakthroughs in Philippine S&T. As incentives, the qualifiers will receive school fees; book, transportation and uniform allowances; monthly stipends and group health insurance, among others.

Each qualifier will be notified about the scholarship award and will be advised on the schedule when he/she, with a parent, must report to SEI for NCR qualifiers or the DOST Regional Offices/Provincial Science and Technology Centers for qualifiers in other regions. He/she should bring the following requirements: original and clear photocopy of Birth certificate and Parents' 2001 Income Tax Return, accompanying parents' 2001 Community Tax Certificate and notarization fee.

Names of potential qualifiers with question on their citizenship or income declaration will be withheld for further evaluation.

Same lists are also available at the website www.science-scholarships.ph

2002 DOST-SEI Merit Scholarship Qualifiers

ABABA, KELVIN RAY LAPINING
ABAD, EDUARD POTESTADES
ABARCA, KENNETH GONATO
ABETO, PAUL ERIC GERMAR
ABOUT, MA. CRISTINA GUINACARAN
ACOSTA, JOSEPH JASPER SATURINAS
ADAOAG, JOHN PAULO JAVIER
AFUANG, KHRISTIA MARIE TERAMIA
AGARAO, MIGUEL AGUILAR
AGBULOS, KARL REINER ZETHA
AGCAOILI, MARIANNE THERESE RIMANDO
AGUHOB, FELIX ANGELO TAGLE
AGUSTIN, ALFREDO JR. SUMAOANG
AGUSTIN, REGINALD MAUYAO
ALABA, CHRISTIAN NAVA
ALABAR, MA. JESSA CALABRIA
ALATRACA, IRA DOMINIQUE TABADA
ALBACETE, ROSE MARGARET FORTEZA
ALBAO, SHYR LYNN DESALES
ALMANZOR, MICHAEL RINO ALVAREZ
ALMAZORA, LEO FRANCIS ABRERA
ALOCILJA, RYAN MERIN
ALOJADO, DIO ANGELO COMIA
ALOJADO, JAMES PATRICK ORCAJADA
ALONZO, JENNY PEARL INVENTOR
AMAN, AIMEE YVONNE CRIBELLE LANDICHO
ANASTACIO, ALVIN ANTHONY PATRICIO
ANDALES, JO GRITZEN MAE LONGAKIT
ARANAS, MOISES ANTHONY BALIGOD
ARELLANO, MARTIN MIGUEL LANSANG
AROMIN, PAULO JEROME VILLACASTIN
ARROYO, KIRSTEN ASHLEY QUINTANA
ASI, JOEI LOYD DELA CRUZ
AVELINO, TARA MAE JESSICA DE GUZMAN
AYAAY, MARK JOHN VERAYO
AYRAN, JUSTIN JULIUS SINOYA
BABAS, JOHANNA KAY PUJOL
BACARISAS, JEK CARIN
BACOLOD, ALOHA TUMACA
BAJANA, ERIC QUILATAN
BAJAR, ROY FRANXIM VIERNES
BALANGATAN, MARIA KRISTINA LOZANO
BALBERIA, BENEDICT CANANUA
BALITE, PERCIVAL HENRY MENDOZA
BALMOCENA, SARAH JANE GILLE
BALTAZAR, DYANN ROYO
BALTAZAR, JEZREEL MARK CUEVAS
BANTOLO, PAOLO ROBERTO CAGAMPAN
BARCELON, ELA AUSTRIA
BARIS, KATRINA VALIMENTO
BASCUG, RENATO EMMANUEL BILLIONES
BATACAN, JOAN ELIJAH RETISO
BATERINA, ANNA VERONICA CHAN
BATTUNG, CHRISTINE TOBIAS
BAUTISTA, CELESTE CAYAMANDA
BAUTISTA, JESI ELLEN CUETO
BAYLON, KRISTINA JANE GIONGCO
BEJAR, MARIFEL LOMUNTAD
BERMEJO, LORRAINE LOVE RILLERA
BONGGO, GRACE EDEN MARIE GENETIANO
BORILE, RONALD SALE
BRIONES, RHONALYN GOO
BUETA, EMMANUEL SIMON
BUHIA, JO ARABELLE MAILYN BALABAG
BULATAO, RALPH PAUL RAMOS
BURAGA, SHEENA BAUTISTA
BURGOS, EDMAN II VISDA
CABALTEJA, KARL BENEDICT RAMOS
CADAY, JULIE BETH ALMO
CALUGCUGAN, JENNIFER RAMOS
CANSON, DAFFODIL MAHUSAY
CANTOS, JON ERIC REYES
CARASIO, MARVIN VELA
CARADO, PAOLO POBLADOR
CARAG, CHARISSA MARIE RUSTIA
CARINUGAN, REY JOHNINO ACHANZAR
CASACOP, LOREYCITO NARD RODRIGO
CASTANEDA, CHERYLL FIGURACION
CASTILLO, NEIL LEO MATINING
CASTROVERDE, CHRISTIAN DANVE MARCO
CASUYON, MONETTE VERGARA
CEBREROS, MARC TITUS DOCENA
CEDENO, KARLO ANGELO PALMA
CENIZA, SIDNEY BYRON PARONI
CERVANTES, RHODERICK REY TOLENTINO
CONDOR, CYREL IRAL
CORDOVA, CARLA CHERYL AMBAS
CORPUZ, FRANCIS JAMES OLEGARIO
COSTALES, FRANZ JOSEF ROMEY
CRISTOBAL, DANNA CLARION VALENTON
CRUZ, MARC FRANCIS GOMEZ
CUESTA, GINO FRANCESCO AGONCILLO
CUNANAN, ERNESTO II HERNANDEZ
CUNANAN, KARL IAN DALUSONG
DALAGAN, ANNA MELISSA VILLANUEVA
DALMAN, JOHN ERIC BAQUIRAN
DAMASCO, JOSSANA ABCEDE
DAMIAO, HILARION ANTONIO LIONG
D'ARAUG, NEMROD TANALGO
DE GUZMAN, ARNOLD PERCIVAL OCAMPO
DE GUZMAN, FRITZ EDWARD FOERSTER
DE LA TORRE, JOSEPH BENJAMIN BILLONES
DE LEON, ROZELLE OLIVARES
DELIZO, JAYCEE MEDINA
DELOS REYES, RAYLAND REYES
DELOS SANTOS, IVY BACAOCO
DESCALLAR, KATHLEEN ROSE SUEZO
DIAZ, EZRA AQUI NABOR
DIAZ, KARL OLIVER DIAZ
DOMINGO, DAVID GACES
DOMINGO, VENSON JOHN RAPOSAS
DOVAL SANTOS, JOSE RAPHAEL GRAN
DULFO, LORENZ DOCENA
DUMAYAS, RALPH GREGOR FURIGAY
DUNGCA, FRANK THEODORE ANCHO
DURAN, DENNIS TED PRUDENCIO
ECHAVEZ, LEANDRO LUIS MANALANSAN
EDMILAO, STEVEN SEVALLA
EDURISE, CHRISTOFFERSON BAGCAL
ENRIQUEZ, JOSEPH KING EOS DAWN VASQUEZ
ESCALANTE, ARLAN-Z LABATA
ESLETA, GEORGE ALLAN PEREZ
ESPARTERO, JENNIFER CORGOS
ESPINOSA, ALLAN MONCUPA
ESPORLAS, JOHN PATRICK NICOLAS
ESTEBAN, JAMES PHILIP GARCES
EVANGELISTA, CZARLINA MAY MAGO
FABELLA, MIRA ANGELI C.
FACULTAD, FELIZIA DIONIO
FAJARDO, JOVILYN THERESE BACO
FAJARIT, HUBERT JEREMY SENTULAN
FAVORITO, CATHY MAE MARGARETTE JUMAO-AS
FERNANDEZ, EDWARD MARTIN NAVARRO
FERNANDEZ, IRENE MARICE AGAPAY
FIGUEROA, VIRGILIO JR. ANGUE
FLARIS, MICHAEL ANGELO TABISULA
FONTECHA, JAN LESLEY VILLANUEVA
FORMENTO, ALEXANDER JOHN FALLARIA
FORONDA, DOMINIQUE JOYCE VALDEZ
FRANCISCO, MICHELLE CARINO
FRANCO, KENNETH BRYAN PARAS
FRANCO, NEPOMUCENO II TUZON
GABAD, ROENA CAMACHO
GABRIOLA, AARON JOSEPH PARILLA
GADONG, MA. THEA PO
GALLINERO, ULYSSES SOLIDARIOS
GALLO, KENNETH OLIVER POBLETE
GAMARA, IVAN CEDRIC BALMES
GARAY, MARK KENNETH TABARANZA
GARCIA, JAN AARON AUGUSTUS FORONDA
GARCIA, JEROME CEZAR DAMA
GARCIA, MARIA CARMELA TAN
GARCIA, RAYMOND NAZARIO
GAYARES, CEDRIK BEN ABOGA
GERONIMO, ROCHELLE CRISOSTOMO
GIALOGO, JOMAR GIMOTO
GOLBIN, JONA MARIE PATALINGJUG
GONZALES, VANESSA DE LA CRUZ
GUEVARA, JOSE ALBERT PERALTA
GUEVARRA, EDGARDO JR. PAREJA
GUMAPAC, MARIE KRISTINE REYES
GUTIERREZ, CARLO SEBASTIAN SAUI
HERMO, KARLO VENIDA
HERRERA, CHRYSANTHUS ETORMA
HESULA, JEFFREY LABAY
HIPOLITO, CECILIA LIM
HOMBREBUENO, BEN JOSEPH VIDAL
ISIP, MARC IMMANUEL GIBE
JABOL, MEL JAIRUS BARBA
JADER, DENISE MIGUEL
JARDER, ADA MAE JIMENEZ
JONSON, MAY KRISTINE ALVAREZ
JUAT, KATHERINE ANNE ADRILLANA
KUIZON, JAN JEROME FELICIANO
LABRADOR, JESSE EMIL SANTIAGO
LACESTE, JAMES PAUL OCAMPO
LAGERA, YVETTE LABASSAS
LALUCES, MICHELINE LAPUZ
LANGGA, KENNETH VERULA
LAQUINDANUM, GARY TORRES
LASA, CARLOS MIGUEL MALABANAN
LASCO, RONNA MARI MERCADO
LATAY, SUSANA BEATRIZ SALIDO
LAYCO, MADONNA COLLANTES
LEANO, GENEE RENELLE FERNANDO
LIBUNAO, DONNA WREN BIGCAS
LOGRONIO, ERNST EDWARD LAROZA
LOPEZ, KATRINA ISABEL LAMPA
LOPEZ, PAOLO MIGUEL LABAO
LUBATON, GEOMAR CASINILLO
LUMANANG, JAYJAY OSHIRO
LUMPAS, HERBERT RUIZ
MABAYO, JAY CHRIS POMAR
MACARANDANG, RACHEL ANNE SAPINA
MACARIOLA, KRISTIAN LAUREANO
MADDUMBA, JASON RAFAEL ASPURIA
MAGA, BERNADETTE ROSE GUIAMI
MAGBOO, MARK LINDSEY ASION
MAGNAMPO, AYESA CRUZ
MAGUAD, MARGARETH FILLON
MAHILUM, MA. CRISTINA VERGARA
MALAPAO, FRANCISCO JAVIER ROSAS
MALIHAN, JAMES BRIAN SANTOS
MALINAO, MARY KRISCHELLE CAJIPE
MAMALAYAN, JHOANNE PADUA
MAME, REAL MASACAYAN
MANALASTAS, KAREN KATRINA GUILLERMO
MANANTAN, LEANDRO LUIZ SOLIVEN
MANGAHAS, NIKOLAI BAUTISTA
MANLUNAS, JANINE ESPIRITU
MARA, MARK JOSEPH TONGSON
MARIANO, MARC ANDREW FAUSTO
MASIPIQUENA, JASON ERICK DAZA
MEDINA, PAOLO VICTOR NARTEA
MENCIAS, MARVIN JOSEPH VALLEJOS
MENDOZA, JOHN RYAN NUAL
MENDOZA, JONATHAN CARMELO TOQUERO
MERCADO, KIEL MARTIN WARREN
MESIONA, AIZZA CHRISTINE UNGAS
MIRANDA, JEAN-LESLIE PAGULAYAN
MIRANDA, RUBY LOUISE TAN
MONDRES, TEDDY ROWELL UMBAO
MONSADA, JOSEPH FREDERICK YGNACIO
MONTERO, MARIA TERESITA PAMELA ANGKANG
MONTEVIRGEN, CHRISTOPHER RIVERA
MONTIFALCON, JAN VINCENT LAVIDES
MONTOYA, EDREN JOY CUBOL
MORALES, MARIAN MATEO
NABIONG, CHRIS DANIEL FELICIANO
NACION, JOHN CARLO NIVERCA
NARCISO, JOAN ONATE
NAVARRO, RALPH JORDAN POSERIO
NINAL, KRYSCEL CZARINAH LIDASAN
NUEVO, MA. CRISELDA RIVERA
OCAMPO, PATRICK RICHARDS PALACIO
OLARTE, JENNILIZ IGLESIAS
ORBETA, BREN YANGZON
ORETA, PATRICIA CELINE DE JESUS
PACAMALAN, MARY GITTEL ABOLOC
PAGALILAUAN, ELAINE KATE FERRER
PAGUIO, DENNIS PATILI
PALACIO, JANE DURANA
PALACIOS, JOY ANN GEMELO
PALCONIT, ANA RICA BANGALAO
PALOMAR, ERIK-RAY MATTHEW SALARES
PANDITA, BAI SHARIFFAH BALABADAN
PANGAN, CHICCO XERXES DE LEON
PANGAN, GENESIS CARLO FAJARDO
PANGAN, JOHN MARI NAVARRO
PANTIG, FRANCESCA MAE TAN
PAREDES, MARY IRENE RAGO
PASCUAL, ABEGALE ANNE BAUTISTA
PELECIO, MARY ANN NALZARO
PENON, JIM IRVIN BATULA
PEREZ, JAN NINA MICHELLE PIMENTEL
PERIA, IVY CRISEL CASTILLO
PUGOY, LUIS MANUEL ROJAS
PUNZALAN, MARK CABATINGAN
QUINIOLA, MARVIN CAPATI
QUIRANTE, KRISTINE ACE FABILLAR
QUIZON, JASON LAGUESMA
RACAZA, OLAN LANSANG
REFRAN, YASMIN SINGH
REYES, MARIA KRISTINE CONSTANTINO
RICALDE, ROWENA RODRIGUEZ
RITO, BRIAN YSHMAEL DIMAUNAHAN
RODRIGUEZ, JOSE TOMAS PACOLOR
RONGAVILLA, JOHN MARDY PANGILINAN
SAMBLINGO, SIGOURNEY BASUIL
SAN JUAN, ARAN HOMER JIMENEZ
SAN VALENTIN, GENE PAUL DEL CASTILLO
SANDOVAL, ANTON FRANCO
SANTIAGO, PETER JUNE MACALINO
SANTOS, ADRIENNE TAMBA
SARMIENTO, LINDA II MIRANDA
SEMBRANO, JAN MICHAEL GLORIA
SEQUITO, JUSTIN KARLO YUTANGCO
SERDONE, JOHN PAUL APOLINARIO
SICAM, FAITH PATRICIA MASANGCAY
SICANGCO, EMIR LENARD SUERTE FELIPE
SILVANO, MARIAN ROSE LUENA
SOBREVEGA, LESTER LABANERO
SOLERA, LEILANI ARCEO
SOLITO, EARVIN TAN
SORREDA, JAY-AR TABUZO
STA. ANA, ARTHUR FRANCIS PEDRO
STO. TOMAS, RONNEL CARLO TRAJANO
SUMERA, RICHARD SALES
SUNIO, VARSOLO CORNAGO
SUPLEO, DANERIEL SIA
SUPLIDO, RUFINO III FERNANDEZ
TABUDLONG, NAOMI MARIAL
TAMONDONG, AYIN MODINA
TELEBRICO, MA. ABIGAIEL ABRAHAM
TOBIAS, ROXANNE DOMINGO
TOLENTINO, GRAZIELLA ACANG
TRIA, LEW ANDREW RAVELAS
TUAZON, ANNA CRISTINA ANGELES
TUO, RAISSA MARIE MEJIA
TURLA, FLORENCE BATO
TUSARA, LOREN MONTEFALCON
TUSCANO, LINDOMAR DU
ULIT, ESTEFANIE DE JESUS
URRIZA, PAULO IBAGANI MALIJAN
UTANES, NOEL NINO SO
VALENCIA, ARNOLD ROMERO
VELOSO, RAFAEL BENEDICT CRISOLOGO
VERGARA, MARY JAHLYN SORIANO
VIADO, LEO NEIL TUMADIANG
VILLAMIL, ISABELA ROSARIO GUEVARRA
VILLANGCA, JOHN BENEDICT BLANDO
VILLAPLAZA, MELE SANDY VILLAHERMOSA
VITANZOS, IVY MAE CLEOPAS
YEBAN, LEANDRE RELATOR
YEBRA, MARK VICTOR ESCOTO
ZACATE, ROSE TERI JATULAN
ZAMORA, DAVID ANTHONY DELA TORRE
ZANORIA, SUSAN CLAIRE BRAVO
ZAYAS, JESUS ROMAN BUSI

2002 RA 7687 S&T SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFIERS

CAR

ABRA

ANCHETA, MELQUIADES CALAWEN
APUYA, HELEN GRACE ATMOSFERA
DALICAO, GIRLIE BARUELA
DOSE, JOVELEEN DESARES
BOSUECO, JENNYROSE NAVARRO
CAMELLO, CHRISTOPHER TORRES
LANGBAYAN, ARLENE CANDOR
TABADAY, FRANCES MARIE TAGURA
TUGADI, MARYCHRIS FRIGILLANA

APAYAO

DULLIT, RIZELDA BALENO
LLANTADA, MINERVA CALUDUCAN
DANDASAN, ELVIN TOLENTINO
ORPILLA, MARVILYN LADENG
PELOBELLO, MARK GAMIAO

BENGUET

ABAT, DANE ALDRIN U.
AGUSTIN, JUSTINE YMANA
ALBANO, TEDDY PASCUA
ALOS, KRISHYL BENITO
ANGWAY, DAGAM GAMBICAN
BAGAYAO, EDVEN BUNGDUAN
BALDOS, CATHERINE TABIEROS
BAUTISTA, CHRISTOPHER RINO BATAC
BELINO, ROXANNE LINGSIT
BELLO, ALVINA NOPRE
BERBALONA, HEINRICH BUBNNEN
BESWILEN, BERKELEY BONDAD
BINAY-AN, GLENFORD LIBAG
BRIONES, NELSON ESPIRITU
CALTINO, JONATHAN BARGASO
CARINO, DANE JANUS BUGDAN
CORTIGUERRA, MARY ROSE FERRANCULLO
DE GUZMAN, CHRISTY DE GUZMAN
DIO-ALAN, FLORALYN DEBSIO
DIZON, JULIETA JOANNA HERMANO
DOMPILES, MYLINE JOSE
FERNANDEZ, JORIEFE LACORTE
GALAS, ABIGAIL ESTRELLA
GALLEZO, MICHELLE LORENZO
GAS-IB, WINDA BAD-ET
GUAKI, MARIFEL BICOMEN
IBANES, JASHER JOHN ABANCE
JACILDONE, MARY GREAL DAGSA
MABITASAN, SHIRLEY MORA
MANCHIS, LEA PANARNGON
MELCHOR, ROBILYN GONZALES
MINGUA, SHICHAR DAGUPEN
MONCES, ABIGAIL MAE DINGCONG
NOVIDA, MARY JANE NICOLAS
OCAMPO, JAMIR NINO PURIFICACION
PAGDANGANAN, MARC IRWIN SAJONAS
PALITOG, MARIEVIC LANGPAWEN
PANGANIBAN, MICHELLE TELIAKEN
PASOS, BRYAN CAUAN
PATAO, CHERRY MAE BONDAD
PERALTA, JOAN MEDALLA
POYAOAN, JERONIMO VIRAY
QUISOBEN, LEA CONTADA
RANAY, RONALIZA DILLA
REALINA, BERNADETTE MICHELLE BAYOUEN
SALAZAR, NANCY BERNARDO
SANCHEZ, ADELLE NOBLE
SANCHEZ, MELVIN ANGELO SORIANO
SISON, JENNIFER FIANZA
TACIO, MARIBEL C.
TOMALI, JAY-R TERENG
VALLENTE, WILFREDO ABAGGUE
WAKIT, MURPHY RAZZ BALAOEN
YASSAN, REDENTOR CAMPOS

IFUGAO

ALI, SCARLETTE LEI DULNUAN
AQUINO, MARK OLIVER TADAO
BALAJO, CAROLEEN GLENDA DIMI-AG
BINOHLAN, MARYJANE D.
BUHONG, CHESTER HABILING
DAGADAG, TEDDY GATAWA
ERNESTO, LEA DIMANGNA
GOBWAY, SEAN NABEJET
MANTAHA, ABEGAIL BUYAGAWON
PINAY-AN, FROILAN JICK BINLINGAN
PRUDENCIANO, ZYRA RINGOR
QUINQUITO, NADINE ANANAYO
ZERRUDO, MARIVIC YOGYOG

KALINGA

AGAID, ETHEL JOY EDER
BAAWA, JOEY B.
CHUMAWAR, ELSIE SALDAEN
DUGAS, ORLANDO ORDONA
DUMALLEG, CARINA D.
COAN, RAMIL D.
RIVERA, FARRAH DYAN PADUA
ROCA, ADAM CLAYTON PINERA
SAGAWIL, JASMIN DAYAWET
SACLAO, CANDICE CANDELAINE KITONG
SANCHEZ, AITE CATIEN QUILAO
TEQUI-ING, JOEL BALINGWAY

MT. PROVINCE

ANSNOYAO, GRACE GUIDANGEN
ANTONIO, REAGAN TAPANG
BELSO, CHESTER MAGLIAN
CAPUYAN, MICHAEL JR. DOTENGAN
DACUBANA, WILFRED PACHAO
MANGAY-AT, CONNELYN ELWAS
MATINAO, EFREN MURPHY
MATINEK, ROENA DITENG
PADALLA, AURORA HELEN BAGANO
TAOG, HENLEY DAGOYEN
TIWAGEN, LEONARD WITAWIT
TORAPING, KRISTINE PITO-OY

REGION 1

ILOCOS NORTE

AGGAYAN, LADY RUTH RAMIREZ
BALMILERO, SHERYL ACOBA
BANIAGA, JHAY TELA
BARIT, MICHAEL AGNATA
BAUTISTA, MARVIN DALORAN
BEN-ONG, ROGGIE RAPADA
BLANCO, JEDDALYN PARULAN
CABUNGAN, MARLON GANTALA
CALZADO, KARLA VERONICA BERNARDINO
CASTELLANO, PHILIP JOHN PASION
DIGDAY, LAARNI ROBLES
FRANCISCO, SHIELAH MANUEL
GALANO, HENRY NICOLAS
GUILLERMO, VALERIE MAE SEBASTIAN
LAGUTAN, LIWLIWA BALICLIC
NIETO, GLADYS CHARISMA AGUINALDO
PASCUAL, RYAN LOPEZ
RAMOS, ROSHELA BUTAC
RECAIDO, JOSELYNE LAMPITOC
REINOSO, LOUIE MARTIN CU
TAYLAN, JOURNEY PASION

ILOCOS SUR

ANDRES, AILEEN ROSE ESPIRITU
BANGAOIL, EDEN ANTHONY CAOILI
CORPUZ, RALPH SHERWIN AGUSTIN
DONIEGO, IAN ALISON RADANAL
DUMLAO, ERNIE LOURD TORRES
FLORES, JO RODOLF ABELLA
GADE, GIDEON MINE
GALAY, LOVELY CONCEPCION
IBEA, KATRINA JOY AOSAYANI
LARANANG, REGIENALD LAPITAN
LAURENTE, SHARON RIDULME
LLANES, PIA GALE RAGASA
NUTO, NORBERTO SABADO
OCAMPO, MICHELLE BRIOSO
PINEDA, ALEX JR. LAURENTINO
PIPO, RONALYN SOLERO
PULANCO, MA. LEA ANGELA GACOSCOS
REOLALAS, VINCENT QUIJENCIO
RIMPILLO, ROSELLA SOMERA
TABANGCURA, JEFFREY TAPUCOL

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BALDONADO, ANN MARGARETTE EBREO
BALUGAR, EUMAR TABAFUNDA
BANGLAY, HAROLD MATIAS
BERMIO, GALDYS ANNE MUPAG
CONCEPCION, DHOBEN MARQUEZ
DANGO, JANE BIYONG
DIFUNTORUM, DINO MARLO ZANDUETA
FERNANDEZ, CHRISTIAN AQUINO
GALISTE, ROWELL PABAMONTE
GARCIA, CHRISTIAN ARTHUR CRUZ
ILLUSALA, GLADYS BALES
LAOAGAN, SHE SOBREPENA
LAROCO, MAUREEN MAGLAYA
MABANAG, ARIAN DAVE GARCIA
MADAYAG, SHIELA MAE HULIPAS
MAMUYAC, CHARMAINE LACHICA
MAPILI, OLIVER DILAN
MARINAS, JARWIN LOURANTHY ALDEOSA
MARQUEZ, LOVELYN FLORES
MILANES, RAINIER ANTHONY MABIAS
NILLO, JOAN KRISTINE CALADO
OCAMPO, FELICISIMO III TOMBAGA
PASTOR, VICTOR ARIZALA
PUGAL, MA. THERESA GAPASIN
RILLORTA, CATHERINE HIPONA
ROMERO, RAY BILL MOLINA
SALDIVAR, ALONA RESUMADERO
SORIANO, CHRISTIAN JETT RICAFRANCA
VALIN, JEANNELYN MAGRIAGA
VILLAFLORES, JOYCE ESTIOCO
VILLAJUAN, ANDREW ABELLERA

PANGASINAN

ABALOS, JEOFFREY BAUTISTA
ABELLERA, AIZA GONZALES
AQUINO, ALEXIS LOPEZ
AQUINO, JOSEPH CARONONGAN
ASPERIN, GRESELDA CRUZ
AVELINO, EDEN ESPIRITU
BACANI, MA. ANGELICA BALDO
BALAZUELA, MA. ANITA DELFIN
BANIQUED, REYDA ENRIQUEZ
BARIL, AIZA MARTICIO
BASBAS, ROXAN DE VERA
CAASI, LOREALEEN CAHIGA
CABANA, RODERICK JADORMEO
CACHO, LEAH ROBERTA
CADUA, JOANNA MAE MOZO
CAGUIOA, MARIO LINOS
CAMAGAY, CHEDALE MENESES
CAPUNO, ROSA BUENA ADANAN
CASTRO, LAWRENCE OLIVER ORTEGA
CHAN, RICH JASON IBASITAS
CRUZ, JOAN ZARENO
DE QUINTOS, JULIE ANN SABANGAN
DE VERA, LOVE KRISTINE PEGALAN
DIZON, DAPHNE HAZEL VIRAY
ESTABILLO, ERMAVIE OLEGARIO
EVANGELISTA, RYAN VINCENT BUENAVENTURA
GABRIEL, JOAN MARIE DE LEON
GARAY, RUBY LYNE PAREL
GARCIA, REMY ARSHIE CAIDO
GARIN, ARLENE MENDEZ
GILMO, RAYMUND MACARAEG
ITORMA, NEIL GALSIM
LAGUIT, PRIMO ESTOPIA
LEOCADIO, MICHAEL DELA CRUZ
LUMAGUE, PIERRE ANGELO SOLIS
MAGAT, MARY GRACE CANO
MAGNO, RITA REYES
MANIACOP, MICHAEL BAUZON
MELENDEZ, WILSON KAEIL CASTRO
MENDEZ, FLORANTE JR. BRISTOL
MONES, LAILANIE TARAPE
MONTEDERAMOS, FRANCIS PICARDAL
MORES, CRIS IAN SAWAYSAWAY
NAVARRO, JOSEPH ARJAY PINEDA
OANDASAN, BLAS ULANGCA
OBRA, JESSA CANAYON
OPERIO, RICKY JAY OBRA
OSANA, MONICA CABALLERO
PALMA, JOHN KRISTOFFER CHAVEZ
PREZA, JAN MARGRETH MALIMBAN
SALAZAR, JERIC IAN ERJAS
SENIN, DEXTER BAUTISTA
SIOCO, JEZABELLE RAMOS
TERCERO, CHERYL SOLIS
VALDEZ, DAVE SORIANO
VENTURA, JOEMAR EMPLEO
VILLANUEVA, MA. LUISA MORALES
VITO, MARICEL DE VERA

REGION 2

ACEBEDO, ROSHELL SIRINGAN
AGCAOILI, NEIL IAN AGBAYANI
AGUINALDO, RONALD CADARUAN
AMARILES, MARK RENIER U.
AQUIO, SHARON UY
AVENA, CHERRIE MAY DUMON
BACBA, MA. DESIREE SALVADOR
BADAJOS, JUMAR UNIDA
BAQUIRAN, JOANNA MARIE AQUINO
BIGORNIA, SHYR TACBIAT
BIHI, CRISTINA RUBINO
BUEMIO, MARIVIC CALUNTAD
CABUTAJE, MYRA CACHOLA
CALLEJA, JOSEPH QUISQUINDO
CANAPI, JAN PERRY CADATAL
CANCULA, MARIA PRINCESITA ILLANADA CRUZ
CARANGUIAN, TEODORA CAGURANGAN
CASTRO, ONOFRE JR. SIRIBAN
CASTRO, SHERYL DU
CIPRIANO, EMELY ANNE TAPULAO
COLLADO, REMEDIOS MAGASADDU
CRISOSTOMO, JOYCE MALLABO
CRISOSTOMO, RENANTE JR. VIERNES
DOCENA, ROWELL CASTILLO
DELA CRUZ, JAN NEIL PASICOLAN
DELOS SANTOS, FRANCISCO III LUQUIAO
DODDATO, TERESA TAMAYO
DUPAYA, CHERYLL CASINOS
ENDAY, KATHRENA GANAB
ESTOLER, EDMUNDO DURUGNAN
FERRER, BERNADETH GUMABAY
FONTANILLA, OP ELIZAR VICENTE
FONTANILLA, LADIE SOY DATUGAL
GAMMAD, TECHIE CARAG
GARCIA, REYWIN GALLETES
GARCIA, RIZALDY ESCOBAR
GUITERING, ANTONIO SALES
INDONG, DEXTER JAY LIBERATO
JIMENEZ, MARK ANTHONY CATUBAG
LACAMBRA, BRYAN TALOSIG
LIBUNAO, EDELSON SANA
LIGUIGAN, JESSAMYN MANALO
LORENZO, JAY-AR MIRAFUENTE
LUGO, NIMROD CHRISO BACUD
MALLILLIN, JERRY A.
MATEO, NEELY MALTU
MENDOZA, JOSEPH TANO
MIRANDA, MICHAEL SALVADOR
MODOMO, RODNEY RAMOS
MORA, ERWIN MANGULAB
OBISPO, JOHNSON MANDING
ORPILLA, JOCELYN BALLESTEROS
PAGULAYAN, MARITES PADILLA
PALOGAN, LAUTERIO CATULIN
PARANAQUE, MAVELYN CANDINATO
PAUIG, JESPER BASSIG
PERLAS, JONATHAN SIRUNO
RAMOS, MARWELL CABANA
SAJONIA, AIRENE SEBUCA
SAMORTIN, JENEL MATALANG
SIBAL, GREGORIO JR. ALLAM
SIBAL, MICHAEL VINCENT MANALO
SUYU, NENITA B.
TABANGAY, NORMAN DELA CRUZ
TABAO, ELISA SALISI
TABBU, FREDERICK PUSTAZA
TABLAC, LADYBELL MARJORIE ILAO
TALATIAD, JOHN CHRISTOPHER LAUIGAN
TALATTAD, ANGELA TOLOSA
TELAN, PAUL JOHN CABRERA
TRINIDAD, CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
TURINGAN, RANDOLPH FERNANDEZ
URBI, DIANNE URBULUM
UTAYDE, JAYSON INARAT
VALDEZ, JEDIDAH DAMIL
VALERA, DEXTER PREZA

ISABELA

ABAD, GLADYS RANCHEZ
ACIDU, PRECKLY L.
AGANON, MELCHEZEDECK MEDRANO
ANCHETA, DESHARIMEEN VALEROSO
ANZA, ERIC BALASSO
BALAYAN, JOJO PREZA
BALGUA, LEIFRENCHIAN ESCALICAS
BUMANGLAG, PIA BIANCA ABAD
CANCERAN, SHERYLOU TURO
CAPARROS, MICHAEL VINCENT SAMONTE
CASTANEDA, MICHAEL PUBLICO
DELGADO, ANALYN B.
FERRER, FERGIE GUIYAB
FRANCISCO, ABEL TINAZA
GARCIA, KYTHE LEXANN GRACE FELICITAS
GUCE, MARION KIT ASUNCION
JAVIER, FERDINAND JR. AUSTRIACO
LABANIEGO, ZHORAIDA GINEZ
LIBAN, MARJORIE VICUNA
MALATE, KEVIN VIERNES
MANUEL, MARIA THERESA ROCAFOR
MAQUINAD, RHINE RENE PAGALLAMMAN
MEDINA, JANE SHALLIMAR CABRILLO
NARAG, KATHRINE ANNE DOLERA
PALUNDAY, CLAIRE C.
PASCUAL, MA. CORAZON GALIMA
PAZ, MARIA LOURDES CASUAR
PUNZAL, REYLOURD PUNZAL
RECTO, MARK ALVIN ROCAFOR
RESURRECCION, JIMMY DELA CRUZ
REYNO, MARICHRISS CASTRO
ROSAS, RYEA TUMANENG
ROXAS, DEAN MAYNARD ABENOJAR
VIZCONDE, VANDER VILLE VISITACION

BATANES

EGOBIA, MARIA FAYE MERCADO
GARRIDO, JERICHE ELCANO
GECHA, RICHARD HORCAJO
HABANA, JUDYTH
PONCE, SHARON
TABUSO, JUSTIN DABALOS
VELASCO, MERVIN CADID

QUIRINO

BALBIN, JOEY MOVILLA
CABILES, MA. VICTORIA VALEROS
CLARITO, CHRISTIAN JOSEPH MALAQUE
CUARESMA, ALEX CUNANAN
DULNUAN, DIANA BUYUCCAN
JIMENEZ, ROEL URSUA
MARCOS, LAURIANO RAFANAN
ROTAS, NERISSA DE GUZMAN
TARIGA, ZALDY SEVILLA

NUEVA VIZCAYA

ABALUS, DAN EDISON COLOMA
AFALLA, LABER RUSCONCIRIE RODOLFO
BALANSAY, GLORY BLAZA
BALOC, JONFALYN TAYABAN
CANO, REGINALD KING FERNANDEZ
CIA, CEASAR RYAN TIBANGWA
ESTACIO, JONALYN QUIZANO
GORDOLAN, NOEL CLAVE
MAEJAN, FRANCES CLAIRE SAPON
MANANGKIL, HAMILL RAY JUANINO
MARCELO, FELIX DOMINGO
MINA, ABELARDO TESORO
NATIVIDAD, RONILYN ESTAVILLO
OLIVEROS, EDMARC VITZ COMILANG
RAMEL, MERC EUAN CABRERA
TOLENTINO, REYNAL LLAMELO

REGION 3

BATAAN

ARANAS, ERWIN PUZON
AZCUETA, FRANCIS ANGELO GONZALES
BALUYUT, LALAINE MAGPAYO
BAUTISTA, ROMMEL BANTAY
BONQUIT, JOHN THADDEO ONGOCO
CALMA, JANNETH CONCEPCION
CARPIO, RICHIELLE REFUERZO
CRUZ, DON GANZON
CUDIA, JEFFER KARR SILVAN
DE OCAMPO, ANDRIC ROXAS
DE SILVA, ROMINA AIZA LINGANAY
DIZON, KHARLA ANDREA MUDLONG
GAUIBEL, ERNEST MICHAEL SOTTO
GACIB, DARRYL HANNA VICTORIA TAMIO
GRACIO, ANDREW D.
GUE, DIVINE GRACE ODDIN
INOCENCIO, JOSHUE GUTIERREZ
LANIOHAN, TRISTAN MANANSALA
LUCIO, NICCOLO ODDIN
MANLAPID, MARICAR IBANEZ
MANTUA, GEILIE EMATA
MARIANO, ELOIZA GENEDOZA
MAS, CHRISTOPHER ILARINA
NIBAY, WINNY DASTAS
OCAMPO, MARIA THERESA PASTOR
PENAFLOR, MARILEN VASQUEZ
PERDIO, DONNELL DELA CRUZ
POBLETE, BENJAMIN PASCUA
QUIAMBAO, ROMINA VILLANUEVA
QUINTO, JENNYLYN ASUNCION
RAMOS, MARILAG BALUYOT
RODRIGUEZ, HONEY LYN TABAN
SACLAO, DYNDI VALENZUELA
SANCHEZ, AUDREY MARIE ARANAS
SABOTA, MARIA CHERRY LYN PENA
TAQUIAM, JULIUS PATRICK AGRADO
TINAO, BENJAMIN OSCAR DACION
TUAZON, LEAH TOLENTINO
VICENCIO, RUBY ANN SEBASTIAN
VIRAY, ARCELIE DEMETRIO
WAGAN, OLIVIA LULU
ZABAY, JENELYN SELNAS

BULACAN

ADJIE, MA. CRISTINA ASTORGA
AGUILAR, NINO RAY T.
ALIPIO, MICHAEL ELIZAGA
ANGELES, BENEDICT GARCIA
ANGELES, JULIE ANN SANTOS
ANGELES, JUNE BRIAN BRAGAIS
ANTALAN, KRIS JOY BUGARIN
AREVALO, ROBERT JR. RAMOS
BALBEDINA, RIA MARAVILLA
BERNARDINO, BEVERLY SAN PEDRO
BILLONES, APRIL ROSE EROY
BLAS, JESUS JR. TRINIDAD
BULURAN, CHRISTOPHER GALMAN
CAILIPAN, EMMANUEL DC.
CALDERON, JOAN SAPNO
CALONZO, JOY AMERY BORLONGAN
CARPIO, EDWARD GLENN TENORIO
CASIMIRO, REA JONES MANRIQUE
CASTRO, CHERRYLYN ANGELES
CHERREQUINE, JEIEL LALAS
COMPLIDO, JOAN GATUZ
CRISTOBAL, RONUALDO DELA CRUZ
CRUZ, MARISHANE DIMAYUGA
CRUZ, VERNANDO ALTAVANO
CUSTODIO, ANTERSON MADRIGAL
DAZ, SOPHIA KATHLEEN CELIS
DE GUZMAN, PAUL EDUARD CAPARAS
DE LARA, MARK LEXTER DAVID
DEL ROSARIO, MARIA ELEONOR BUENA-AGUA
DELA CRUZ, MARINELLE MARTINEZ
DELA CRUZ, MYLENE CORTEZ
DELA VEGA, ROBBY VILLANO
DESCALSO, MELANIE EVANGELISTA
DIONISIO, DINDO CARIMAN
ENRIQUEZ, LIONEL TOLENTINO
ESPINOLA, MARY LAINE DELOS REYES
FAJARDO, KRISTLE ESGUERRA
FRANCISCO, DONNA ENTEZAR TRONO
FRANCISCO, VERGEL RELUAO
GAPIDO, JHOANNA PAGUIO
GARCIA, ERWIN IGNACIO
GATCHALIAN, ROCHELLE DELA TORRE
GATPANDAN, MA. JEAN ILLESCAS
GOROBAT, RONALD CLAVO
GUANLAO, CANDICE CHRISTA MONDIGO
GUBALLA, JASMIN VASQUEZ
GUEVARA, MARIAN VILLEGAS
ILAG, JAN ROBERT SIOJO
ISIDRO, VINCES EUNICE ATIENZA
JOSON, SHERYLL ANNE DAYAO
LATONIO, MELANIE GONZALES
LIDIRAN, RALPH CRUZ
LIZARONDO, MICHAEL MENDOZA
MAGILANGAN, JOAN CARALE
MACAPAGAL, MARCO DONATO
MACLANG, ELLESSA REYES
MAGNAWA, ABRAHAM ARGENIO
MAMING, HECTOR MAGALING
NARCISO, AUBREY ROSE PULUMBARIT
ORO, GERALD SALAO
OZAETA, JOHN LOUIE ESPIRITU
PASCUAL, CHRYSELLE MIJARES
POLITICO, DONATO JR. RIVERA
PORTUGAL, ROSSAN DE GUZMAN
REYES, LENY FLORES
REYES, MARLON SISON
RODRIGUEZ, MARIEL GODOY
SAN DIEGO, CRISTINA RAMOS
SAN PEDRO, ANA LIZA REYES
SANCHEZ, CRISPIN JR. ABCEDE
SANCHEZ, JAY-AR BACTOL
SANTIAGO, KAREN CAITE ARELLANO
SARMIENTO, RODERICK RYAN LIZARDO
SAYCO, MICAH ANGELI FLORES
TAPANG, ADELINE KAREN PAHATI
TARONGOY, AUBREY REYES
TOLENTINO, HAROLD JAMES CANAS
TOLENTINO, MERLITA BAUTISTA
TOPACIO, JOMARSON VIRAY
VALIMENTO, MARIBER VALDERAMA
VELASQUEZ, CHONA CASTRO
VELASQUEZ, ROVI-ANN APOLONIO
VICTORIANO, MA. MORENA ESTIMO
YAMBALLA, PETER ACE FILASOL

NUEVA ECIJA

AGUILAR, RACHEL ANNE PERALTA
CABALLERO, ALVIN SALVATIERRA
CAYOG, MARIFE VILLASISTA
CORPUZ, MELGINE VALDEZ
DEL ROSARIO, APRIL SAGAY
DELA CRUZ, MELODY REYES
DIAMZON, KRISTIN SANCHEZ
ESPIDOL, JESSALIE MEJILLA
ESPIRITU, ZENAIDA MARBELLA
JAVILLO, EVERJEAN APAN
JUVINAL, JOEL GARCIA
MALLARI, MARK JEROME RAZON
MANABAT, JOHN LEO ASUNCION
MARABUT, DEMETRIO JR. REYES
MERCADO, AMYLOU GABRIEL
NICOLAS, NARENE CASTRO
PEREZ, MICHELLE NICOLAS
RACADIO, CHARLES DARWIN TRONO
RAGEL, JOJIT DE GUZMAN
REYES, EUGENE MARK VILAR
RIGOR, JOHN NESTOR DETABLAN
RIVERA, MA. CRISTINA SACYADEN
SAMANIEGO, JOHN CHRISTOPHER MARAYA
SANTIANO, CORNELIO SANTOS
TITAN, JEMUEL LABRADO
TOMAS, ALSEDENIA SARITO
VALIN, HAZEL GRACE ARCILLO
VERJES, JED RANDOLPH AZARCON

PAMPANGA

AGUSTIN, ANGELA MANIAGO
ALFONSO, LOUIE ANTONNETTE MANGALUS
ALIZAGA, A.R. ARCILLA
BACANI, LOURDES JOANNE MENDIOLA
BARTOLATA, MARLON LALU
BRAZIL, KIMBERLY ENCIO
CALUAG, ELLIEZER CUNANAN
CANLAS, NONITO JR. FACTOR
CASTRO, MICHAEL URANDO QUITILLO
CORTEZ, JACKIELYN TULIO
CRUZ, AR-JAY PERIAL
DAVID, ALPS DE ASIS
DAVID, MARK TOLENTINO
DE GUZMAN, ERNEST FRANZ JOSEPH ANDRADE
DE GUZMAN, KARL FRANZ JOSEPH ANDRADE
DIZON, ARNIE CRUZ
EUSTACIO, BRYAN JAMES CORTEZ
FABROS, MICHELE MARIE O.
FERNANDEZ, RUDY A.
HIWATIG, RODEL RECINTO
JUNIO, DENISE WYRLO BACALAMITAO
LACSON, JONATHAN ELLIOT FUENTES
MARINAY, JAY AR M.
MARZAN, RHAMEL CLEMENTE
MATA, SARAH NUQUID
MENDOZA, CHRISTOPHER TAPANG
NAPO, PAULINE DE DIOS
NUQUI, WILFRIDO JR. TURLA
OCAMPO, CLAIRA RICA GONZALES
PANLAQUI, LUCILLE ANN PANGANIBAN
POLICARPIO, MARVIN JAY DIZON
PUNU, IRENE PUNU
QUIAMBAO, MARRION JEREMY MALICDEM
QUIAMBAO, R-JAY PANGILINAN
REYES, RONELL CORTEZ
RICOLCOL, CHERRY PIE PAYABYAB
RIVERA, ERWIN MARTIN
SALUNGA, NORMAN PAMINTUAN
SANTOS, ALLAINE SERRANO
SONZA, DARRYL GARGALLO
SUCALIT, RADEN CABRERA
TAJU, ROMALLENE DOMINGO
TALLEDO, ABEGAIL GALANO
VEGA, GENEVE VILLANUEVA
VENTURA, MARK ADCOY M.
VILLACORTES, VINCENT VALERIO

TARLAC

ABAD, AISSA ARIAS
ALIMBOYOGEN, AIZA LAPUZ
ALTARES, MA. DENISE BIANCA GALANG
ARCIAGA, RONALD LOYOLA
ATENCIO, CHONA DELA REYNA
BALDONADO, ROWENA DAMASO
BUGAYONG, MARY GRACE GRANIL
CABALLA, JENNIFER BERNADETH ESTABILLO
CASTRO, FIDEL ANOVA
CAYNA, ROMIELYN GRACE MADUENO
CUARTERON, JAN MICHAEL DUAMCO
CUNANAN, GENESIS LANDINGIN
DOMINGO, KATHRYN DIANA PINEDA
ESPINOSA, MARIO JR. MALLARI
ESTOESTA, LUISITO DE GUZMAN
GALZOTE, ABEGAIL LYN ABENOJAR
GARCILLANO, MARVELOUS MARIE CRISTOBAL
GONZALES, JESSIE ANDALES
GOZUM, LORRAINE MICHELLE TORRES
GRAYDA, ROXANNE JYZELLE CASTRO
LAPUZ, FEMARI LACUATA
LUMBAO, JOANNE YANGO
MANITI, CRISTINA ROSE MANALOTO
MERCADO, LANIE ABAT
MONTE, MARICEL AGAPITO
NARAG, MARISON CAPULONG
OFRECIO, ANGELINE DE PAZ
PARAAN, NESLIE VANESSA MARINAS
PERALTA, RONALD JEROME PERALTA
PEREZ, APRIL TAN
PEREZ, MAE MENESES
ROMBAOA, MC ROLLY MENDOZA
SAMSON, ALELOU DEL MUNDO
SANTOS, MA. ROSE CHARISSE MENDOZA

ZAMBALES

ALMERO, RACQUEL HERNANDEZ
ANI, JENNILYN DALAJADIA
ARANDIA, PHILIP MANUELSON DEVILLENA
ARCETE, ELMER PAGADO
BALOIS, VANCE JOHANAN NAVARRO
BARQUIN, DEBBERIE RAMOS
BERMEJO, ANGHELITO HUGO
BINOTAPA, RONALD ONG
BITANCOL, JIM BRYAN LAZARO
DAYO, AIRA POLOYAPOY
DILAO, LEAFE REYES
DUCOS, RAYMOND GREGORIO
ECALDRE, ANA MARIE MORIA
ECLARINAL, RYAN YAP
ENCOMIENDA, KATRINA HALLADO
FABRIGAS, ABIGAIL MANGLICMOT
FAVOR, JOHN HAROLD ALCANTARA
FUERTES, FREDERICK ARMAND DELA CRUZ
GARCIA, GERALD FERNANDEZ
JAVIER, CHRIS JOSEPH PALOMA
JAVILLONAR, JEXTER RUEGAS
LAGUNZAD, ELSIE BALBALOZA
LARRACAS, JOHN MEYRICK CARTAGO
LAURETO, FERLIN MISTA
LUMANOG, ANALYN LEE
MERCED, AYSA NATIONAL
MINAS, LAVERN BARTOLO
NACANA, JOVY DELA CRUZ
NAD, JAN CHRISTOPHER DEVERATURDA
NOPRE, RODERICK CARREON
PONA, ELLEN ROSE ROBLES
REYES, SETH VITUG
RUBRICO, ROSSAN SAND
SALINAS, NORMAN DELOS REYES
SANTOS, GANDHI FABELINIA
SANTOS, RAY ALVIN RENOLO
SUSA, JONALYN ORQUIZA
TANGHAL, MICHAEL ANGELO QUINDOY
VEGA, CHESTER EISMA
WORRELL, GLENN SORIANO

ARMM

LANAO DEL SUR

ABDULMOIN, MOHAMMAD-ISA AMANODDEN
ALCANTARA, PATRICK ALVIN MAGPULONG
EBRAHIM, LYRAH SARIPADA
MADID, MOH'D JUNAID MAGUINDANAO
PITAMANAN, MOHAIMEN MAROHOMBSAR

MAGUINDANAO

AYUNAN, NASHSAR DUNDING
CANALITA, GABRIEL JIMBO ARLETA
DINO, JODERICA CHUNG
TOLENTINO, JASON BORBON

SULU

ABDULMAJID, HELEN ZACARIAS
HASSAN, SHARIFA MADZDA IMPANG

TAWI-TAWI

ABUALAS, ORISSA ARQUIZA

REGION 4

AURORA

AGANAD, JOVER BRIAN PADUA
ALCANTARA, AIZA Q.
AVELLANEDA, MARK LOUIE AGUILA
EDQUILAG, JOHN MARC VILORIA
ESPIRITU, SAMMY FAJARDO
GUERRERO, JOE CORBIN VELASQUEZ
HULIPAS, ALDRIN BRYAN SY
IBALE, HOMER MANINGDING
JAPSON, JOSELITO ARQUEZA
MACATIAG, PALERMO JR. CALUBA
MISLANG, JENCIN CALZO
SALCEDO, DIANA AIRA ANTONIO
TUALLA, CATHERINE DEL PILAR

BATANGAS

ABJELINA, MONA LIZA MARAMOT
ABRUGENA, LEO JANRYLL ACUZAR
ALDAY, LADIELYN AWAT
ALMACEN, EDILBERTO JR. DAQUI
ALVAREZ, JOSE ALVA LALUNA
AMPONIN, MICHAEL BERDE SILVA
ANINAG, DAHLIA RUIZ
APOLONIO, DENNIS LEDESMA
AQUINO, NOELITO ANTONIO
ARROYO, MENCHIE MORAL
AUSTRIA, ARNEL MANDIGMA
BABADILLA, CHRISTIAN MANALO
BALITE, MICHELLE LOZADA
BARRACA, RAYMOND DOLOR
BATHAN, GEMMA VALENCIA
BAUTISTA, LIEZL REBECCA
BONTO, MARIA CRISTINA MANAIG
BUKAS, JENNIFER DE CASTRO
BUNO, MARIA JASMINE DIMAAPI
CANTOS, LENY C.
CAPATI, RICAMARIE BUELTO
CARAAN, ZARINNA INCIONG
CARANDANG, JENNILYN SULIT
CARRIDO, JENNIFER EVANGELISTA
CASTILLO, FRANCISCO DE TORRES
CENA, FRANCO EMMAN VON MATIBAG
CLEMEO, MARCO EMMANUEL AGUILA
COMIA, ARIES JAVIER
CORANEZ, ALEXANDER ARANDA
DAYAO, CHRISTOPHER SOLOMON
DE CASTRO, GLENDELYN PASIA
DE CHAVEZ, MAYLORD MANJARES
DE GUZMAN, MELODY ILAGAN
DE GUZMAN, ROWENA PLACER
DE JESUS, JULIUS GAUYON
DE OCAMPO, LIEZL BALAZAR
DE TORRES, FRANCO ANACION
DE TORRES, KENJIE MENDOZA
DE VILLA, ERWELL HERNANDEZ
DELOS REYES, GRACE ROBLES
DERPO, OLIVIA JAYNE DIMACULANGAN
DIMACULANGAN, KAREN JOY CALINGASAN
ENDAYA, DARWIN ANYAYAHAN
ENDAGA, RICHARD PEREZ
ENRIQUEZ, MYLENE ARMAHUNAN
ESPIRITU, LIEZL AGUNA
EVANGELISTA, REX GAMBOA
FAVORITO, BERNIE NOCHE
GENETA, PHILIP DILAO
GONDA, SERVILLANO GELERA
GONZALES, ROGEE ADVINCULA
GUERRA, ROSE ROSALES
GUIBIJAN, SONNY FRANCIS ADUB
GUNO, REVADILLE APITA
HABANA, JOSIAH TENDERO
HERNANDEZ, ROSELLE MORENO
HERNANDEZ, STEVE ANTHONY EMIL CANTERA
HERRERA, RYAN JOSEPH PENA
LANTIN, IMA CATALINA BALBA
LIMBO, JEZTHEL APRIL ABACAN
LIPA, JESUS GUTIERREZ
LIRIO, JOEL DALANGIN
LIWANAG, NELSON PADERES
LLANTO, JESUS FEOLINO
LOREZO, SHARAH MAY RODULFO
MAGMANLAC, MANASES MARANAN
MAGO, EMMANUEL DEL ROSARIO
MAGSINO, MAY ANTONETTE CULLO
MANALO, RENANTE OCAMPO
MANALO, REYMOND MARANAN
MANDOCDOC, ADRIAN MENDOZA
MARAMOT, JUNIOR RAMOS
MARANAN, JULIE ANN CENTENO
MARANAN, YOLY D.
MARASIGAN, GLAISA GOMEZ
MASACAYAN, LEDWINO MADERAZO
MEDRANA, JEFFERY CARANDANG
MENDOZA, JEFFERSON MANDIGMA
MENDOZA, JOHN MATTHEW ACOSTA
MENDOZA, KRISTINE BONSOL
MENDOZA, MA. JOSEFA MELANIE PLETO
MENDOZA, NOEVY GARCIA
MENDOZA, ROCHELLE ANN BALE
MENDOZA, ZEUS ALVIN MAULION
MERCADO, CHARLENE AQUINO
MONTERNOSO, SAIRA SALAPARE
MONTOJO, EDWIN CONTRERAS
MORADOS, VERONICA MULLEDA
MORCILLA, GRETCHEN DIMAANO
ORNALES, KAREN CELEBRADO
OSERA, LEONALD CALALUAN
OSMILLO, MELBA IBAGA
PADILLA, ARNOLD MAUHAY
PALMA, JACQUELYN RIMAS
PANERIO, LEA FERNANDEZ
PASAJOL, DELMARK MORCILLA
PATAL, RUSHEL PARAL
PEREA, TERESA MAY DE CASTRO
PEREZ, ALDWIN ANI
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MANIPOL, BRYAN MORENO
MANTES, ULYSSES JUANZO
MERCADO, ANTHONY MANGAO
MONCAWE, LEXTER MORALLES
MOTOL, CHERESA FABABEIR

To be continued

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Rediscovering the lost ring

By Tonette Orejas
Angeles City

THE OLD Kapampangan folk song, "Atin Ku Pung Singsing (I once had a ring)," long echoed an admonition. Chiefly about a maiden's grief over a missing heirloom, the song presaged a scary truth: That of a rich but vanishing cultural heritage of the Kapampangan people.

They inhabit what is unofficially referred to as the Kapampangan region or those parts of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales that, although subdivided by Spanish colonizers from a riverbank settlement (Pampang) extending from Tondo to Cagayan, still speak the language. Or what is left of it.

The warning may not have been deliberate, but the song, which literary historian Rosalinda Icban-Castro said "originated from the humble village folk who were unlettered but had a talent for versification," left a lesson to live by. This is: "*Me uala ya iti, E ku kamalayan* (Icban-Castro's translation: When unbeknown to me/It simply disappeared)."

"Although Kapampangan history and cultural heritage are probably the oldest and richest in the country, very little have survived to this day," said Robby Tantingco, one of Pampanga's young historians.

Much of them, according to Tantingco, have "only been orally transmitted and never recorded, or whatever was recorded on perishable materials like rice paper and tree bark was destroyed by the colonizers or by the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo through the centuries."

Forgotten are values that the song is replete with. In its entirety, the song reminds of values for heritage (*Amana ke iti quing indung ibatan*), for cherishing (*sangcan queng sininup quing metung a caban*), for anguish when something important is lost (*Ing sucal ning lub cu susucdul qng banua*) and devotion (*ninu mang manaquit qng singsing cung mana/ calulung pusu cu manginu ya quea*).

These values, which define the Kapampangan identity, manifest in food, literature, theater, architecture, agriculture, rituals and nonmaterial forms. But these will not be left to time to fritter away or to destructive cultural intrusions to dilute.

Folk wisdom

Not just yet, because a university heeded folk wisdom and joined the growing initiatives to discover the past, draw meanings from it to survive the present, and direct the future.

Last month, the Holy Angel University formally opened the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies. Like a ring worn for commitments, the center on the night of its launching was dedicated to the community, the Kapampangan region.

"We owe it to our ancestors. We owe it to our children," Bernadette Nepomuceno, HAU president, said.

It is the latest of many initiatives that have blossomed and are being linked to save local cultural heritage.

"It is only now that various organizations like Akademyang Kapampangan, Batiuan Foundation, the Save Pampanga Movement and the Tarlac State University's Center for Tarlaqueño Studies are retrieving with urgency the lost or buried fragments of Kapampangan cultural identity. (This) after the lahar devastation of Bacolor and other towns showed how Pinatubo has continued to ravage indigenous culture," Tantingco, the director of the new center, explained.

The center was named after university founder Don Juan de Dios Nepomuceno, the son of Don Juan "Capitan" Nepomuceno, the *gobernadorcillo* of Angeles town in Pampanga in 1879 and the only elected representative of Tarlac in the Malolos Congress of the First Philippine Republic in 1899.

According to Tantingco, the HAU founder himself, aside from pioneering the local power and ice plants, translated Anthony Paone's devotional book "My Daily Bread" into "Ing Cacanan Cu Qng Aldo Aldo" and the '"Life of St. Francis."

He also wrote "Ing Capatad" and "Ing Tala Ming Munag," pamphlets used for daily reflection, which he regularly distributed to his co-members at the Third Order of St. Francis.

INTERESADO KA TALAGA SA KAPAMPANGAN STUDIES, A!
BAKA MAHANAP KO RIN KASI YUNG SINGSING SA KANTA!

His philanthropy and translation work animate the mission of the center, which is to "put together and spread the story of our people and to help them connect with their spirit again," Tantingco said.

The center—which houses a museum, library, theater and archives—is the brainchild of Marc Nepomuceno, a scion of the clan and one of the city's few historians.

Mike Pangilinan, a history professor at the HAU, has also contributed his research to the center.

Prehistoric Kapampangans

On exhibit from March to September is the "Prehistoric Kapampangans," which features artifacts from the Porac archaeological excavation project of the National Museum and the University of the Philippines.

Trinkets, jars and household objects dug in Porac's Hacienda Dolores, as well as an adze (Stone Age tool) unearthed in Candaba town indicate that a civilization long existed before the Spaniards came.

On permanent exhibits are the 100 Faces of Kapampangans (mural of photographs by budding historian Ivan Henares), Kapampangan Timeline (a wall-size serigraph by Norman Tiotuico), linguistic and political maps, and a film on the Kapampangan region (by Jimenez D'Arcy advertising executive Alex Castro).

The center, next to UP-Diliman, also houses the collection of Thomasite educator Luther Parker. These are papers, sketches and documents on early Kapampangan beliefs and practices.

From the Genealogical Society of Utah, the center has acquired a copy of the canonical records of Pampanga. These are more than 300 reels of *registros parroquiales* or baptismal, matrimonial and death certificates of residents in every town of Pampanga from 1621.

Also available on videotapes are folkloric expressions in the genres of Crissotan, *basultu*, *polosa*, *karagatan*, *gosu*, *kantang ukbu* (revolutionary songs during the Japanese occupation), *pantatanam* and *arana*.

The center has a 20-hour non-stop recording of the Pasyon in Candaba as well.

There's a veritable trove of papers, too. Training modules for teachers of the Kapampangan culture, lectures on research methodologies (by Dr. Albina Peczon-Fernandez), oral history (by Huk leader Luis Taruc), historiography (by Prof. Lino Dizon) and archeology (by Dr. Eusebio Dizon).

The center's first international conference on Kapampangan studies held in September last year generated papers on Kapampangan history, culture, language, ethnography, geography and much more.

In its library is the rare book "An Epistle of a Friar-Prisoner" written by Prof. Lino Dizon and published by the center last year.

Perhaps, Tantingco said, it's time to know the Kapampangans beyond their missing Hs and Js. Of course, the difficulty with using aspirated sounds was the result of colonization.

Tantingco said the first Kapampangan vocabulary, published by Augustinian friar Diego Bergano in 1732, did not list any word with H and J. When the Spanish imposed their use, the Kapampangans really had hard a time exaggerating the pronunciation.

But Tantingco said it is even more difficult "rediscovering the ring," or nurturing the culture that enriches the Kapampangan identity amid sparse documents.

CARMELA REYES

SWEET success ends for "sukang Paombong."

Paombong's vinegar industry turns sour

By Carmela Reyes
Paombong, Bulacan

BEFORE the commercial bottled vinegar got the fancy of Filipinos, there was the "*sukang* Paombong."

The native vinegar, made from the juice of the nipa tree, is proudly associated with the coastal town of Paombong and makes Filipino dishes like *adobo*, *paksiw* and *kilawen* stand out.

This native vinegar even makes crispy "*chicharon na may laman*," that Bulacan is also famous for, irresistible.

But the "sweet success" of the "*sukang* Paombong" is now turning sour after a large plantation of nipa trees in the town was converted to fishponds.

Some 100 families in the town (pop: 44,123) who are involved in the backyard production of the "*sukang* Paombong," have expressed alarm over the diminishing number of nipa trees and appealed to local officials to help them save the dying vinegar industry.

Paombong used to have more than 4,000 hectares of land planted with nipa trees, but only less than 1,000 hectares are now devoted to their cultivation for the homegrown industry.

"*Sukang* Paombong" tastes differently from the commercial bottled vinegar sold in the market because the former uses natural extract from the nipa tree.

Unlike the commercial bottled vinegar where artificial ingredients are used, this native vinegar is sour yet there is tinge of natural sweetness in it.

The vinegar turns grayish to black as it ferments longer. Many residents swear that the vinegar tastes better as it turns darker.

Paombong Mayor Dominador Gonzales lamented that the area where nipa trees are cultivated continues to decrease every year because farmers have started to convert their lands into fishponds to earn more.

"In effect, there is a short supply of *sukang* Paombong," he said.

Gonzales said nipa trees are difficult to grow, especially because of the construction of the Labangan Channel and the building of several check gates that prevent the entry of water from Manila Bay to the town's agricultural land.

Land where nipa trees are cultivated largely depends on fresh water from the mouth of the Manila Bay and its tributaries.

"*Wala nang magagawa, talagang mamamatay na ang industriya ng suka, kahit* national government *man hindi kayang tulungan. Kailangan kasing sumunod ang* Paombong *sa pagsulong ng daigdig at hindi ito kayang pigilan* (We cannot do anything. I think the vinegar industry in Paombong is dying that even the national government cannot do anything about it. Paombong should adapt to changes now happening in the world and we cannot avoid that)," Gonzales said.

The mayor was referring to the stiff competition that the local industry would be facing in the advent of globalization and the expected entry of imported products.

Councilor Julio Estrella said Paombong, a fourth-class municipality, had generated an income of only about P10 million in 2001. He said 8 to 15 percent (about P1.5 million) of the town's income was contributed by families producing the native vinegar.

Estrella said the income generated by vinegar producers was "obviously very small" compared to the P8 million contributed by the fishpond operators in the town last year.

Gonzales said another reason the native vinegar industry is collapsing is the stiff competition spawned by the "artificial" vinegar producers.

He said that because of the insufficient supply of nipa trees, many native vinegar producers have turned to the production of acid-based vinegar. Some producers said they import the acetic acid, the base from which they make artificial vinegar.

Why Bonuan 'bangus' is a real standout

COMPARED to *bangus* (milkfish) produced in other areas, the Dagupan (or specifically, Bonuan) *bangus* is a real standout.

"Aside from being physically good looking, it is tastier and its flesh has a better texture," says Westly Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' National Research Center in Dagupan City.

Rosario describes the Dagupan *bangus* as having a small head, with fine and smooth scales, a bulging stomach, tender bones, and a short lower fin-tail.

"If you open up its belly, there is no unpleasant odor at all," he says. "This is because the Bonuan *bangus* feeds on *lablab* (a kind of algae) that grows abundantly in the fishponds and rivers of Dagupan. This natural food makes this variety of *bangus* delicious, its flesh soft and its innards pleasant-smelling."

He says *lablab* grows like carpet on the pond's floor. Its growth is a natural phenomenon caused by erosion in the mountains (Dagupan is a delta area). He says erosion deposits a type of sediment in the rivers, which in turn favors the growth of the algae.

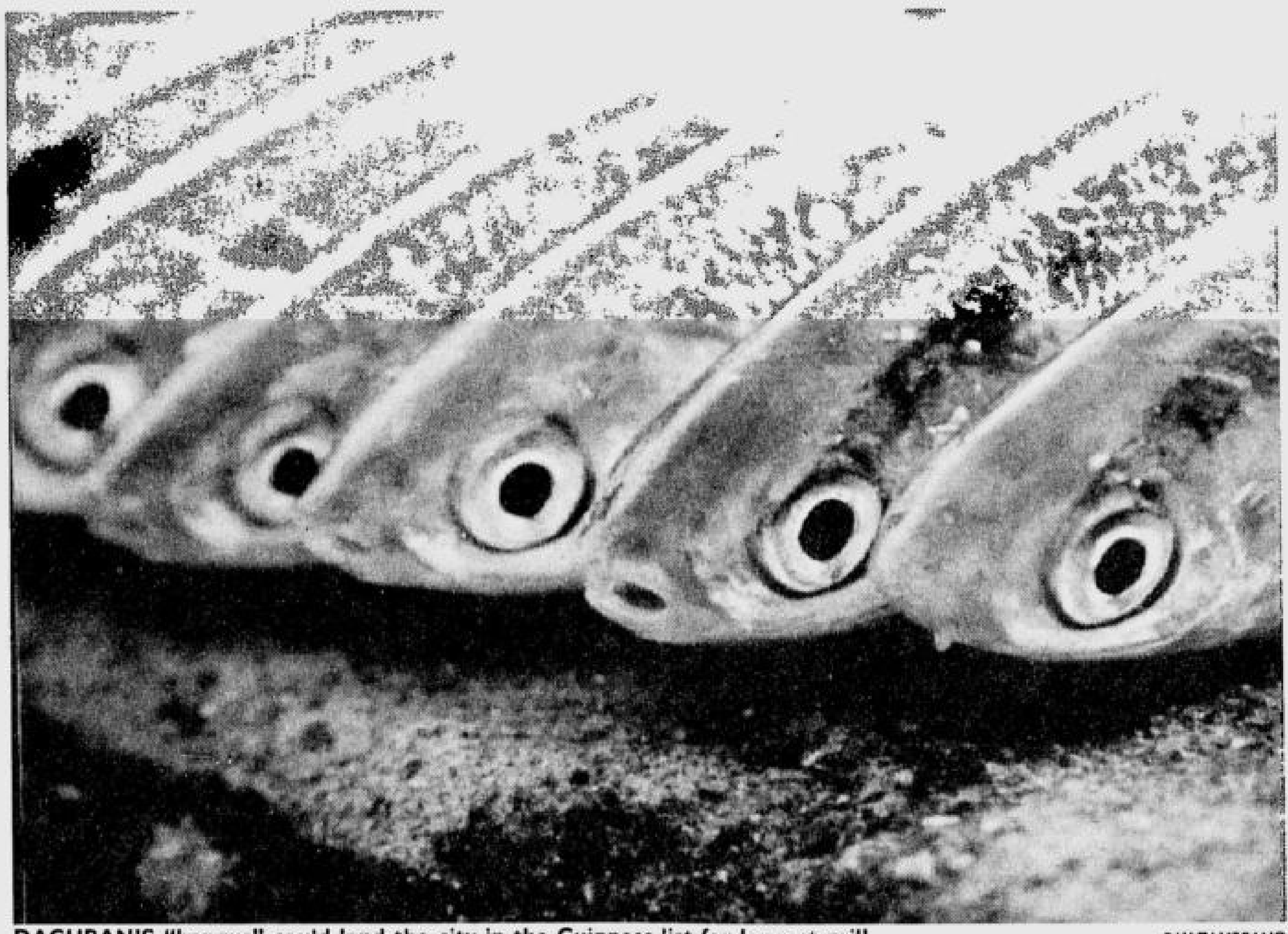
Why the head is small and the bones are soft and the scales smooth can also be attributed to soil nutrients, or the lack of it, Rosario says.

The rivers and the fishponds in Dagupan have less phosphorus so *bangus* develop such features, he says.

The Dagupan *bangus* is cultured mostly in brackish water, giving it the distinctive flavor and characteristics. However, the real Bonuan *bangus* cannot weigh heavier than 250 grams each because of its dependence on natural food.

Buyers must beware of vendors who claim their fish are Bonuan *bangus* because these have short lower tails. Rosario says some vendors cut the *bangus* tails to imitate the genuine Bonuan *bangus*.

But Rosario warns that the Bonuan *bangus* is threatened by the proliferation of fish pens in the city. Too many fish pens, he says, impede the free flow of water and affect the growth of the *lablab*.



DAGUPAN'S "bangus" could land the city in the Guinness list for longest grill. RAY ZAMBRANO

Dagupan's longest, largest grill party

By Yolanda Fuertes
Dagupan City

WITH a kilometer-long grill and 20,000 grilled *bangus* (milkfish), Dagupan City hopes to land a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records as the holder of the world's longest grill and the world's largest grill party.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the activity is part of Dagupan's "*Bangus Festival*," the main feature of this year's *Pista'y Dayat* (sea festival) celebration to promote the Dagupan *bangus* as a global produce and to market the city as the "*bangus* capital of the world." It will be held on April 30.

"Besides, every province or city is holding a festival to promote its products. There is the *lanzones* festival, the *kesong puti* festival and other festivals. So why not a *bangus* festival when we can rightfully claim that we produce the best *bangus* in the whole world?" Lim said.

The city has formally invited a Guinness representative to witness the event, but city officials could not say if he would be coming to record the feat.

Lim said if no representative attends, the city will document the event and send it to Guinness for consideration.

Dubbed "Kalutan ed Dagupan," the grill party will cover the 1.1-km stretch of AB Fernandez Street on the night of April 30, the eve of the *Pista'y Dayat* celebrations.

For the record-setting affair, the city is manufacturing 1,001 one-meter grills that would be put side by side in the middle of the street. The city is also preparing at least 500 sacks of charcoal and 20,000 pieces of *bangus*.

"After the record-setting grill, interested persons can buy *bangus* and cook their own fish, so we asked the *bangus* producers to bring *bangus* to the site," Lim said.

Local officials and members of local organizations and corporations and employees of business establishments will man the grill, making the event a big street party with bands playing in makeshift stages, he added.

Manny Yao, festival chair, said the celebration starts on April 28 with a trade fair at the Japanese Garden in Barangay Bonuan.

The following day, a "Bangus Rodeo" will be held at the Malimgas market to feature the search for "the longest, the heaviest and the most beautiful *bangus*." Contests for the fastest *bangus* deboner and *bangus* eater will also be held.

The festival will also feature a cookfest to show "101 ways" to cook the Dagupan *bangus*, where chefs from the city's finest seafood restaurants will compete to present the best tasting *bangus* concoctions in four categories: soup, appetizer, main course and dessert.

After the competition, an "eat-all-you-can lunch" will be held. Yao said before the grill party, a *bangus* harvest (*gilon*) dance festival will also be staged.

US military also studying Balikatan extension

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would come from the political authorities," Villanueva reiterated. "Arrangements are now being made at headquarters, the (DND) and the (DFA)."

Blair visited the DND yesterday, but he evaded questions from reporters on the proposal to deploy US military engineers.

"It was a great visit, we discussed great things," was all he said.

In Zamboanga, Balikatan co-director Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio clarified that "what we have so far is a proposal on the extension of the exercise and allowing the entry of US engineering forces in the country."

Teodosio said the proposal, submitted by Basilan officials, would be informally discussed with his American counterpart, Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster.

But Afable said the matter was now being studied by military and defense officials.

The United States vacated its military bases in Clark, Pampanga and in Subic, Zambales in 1992 after the Philippine Senate rejected a new bases treaty.

The two countries remain bound by a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

Guingona

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. has reportedly taken the position that a new TOR should be negotiated with the United States if it wanted to bring in more troops.

The existing TOR for Balikatan 02-1 limits the number of US troops in Basilan and Zamboanga to 660, and prohibits US soldiers from engaging in combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Guingona was initially against the deployment of US troops in Mindanao. He relented only after the signing of the TOR.

On April 9, Teodosio recommended extending the exercise for another "three to four months."

He said that he and Wurster recommended the deployment of 300 US military engineers, and that the latter was "very eager that this be approved."

He also said he and Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu were "inclined to recommend approval (of the extension) because this will benefit our people."

"This will be purely engineering work. There's no more training," Teodosio had said.

He also expressed the hope that there would be no need for another TOR. He said one way to resolve the matter was to just affix a "supplement" to the existing TOR.

"There's no denying that the projects will result in the improved operational capability of the AFP," Teodosio had said. "But in the process of improving the capability of the AFP, we will also improve the lives of our people."

Best thing

At the press conference, Blair said stepping up military pressure on the Abu Sayyaf was the "best thing" that Filipino and US troops could do to force the bandit group to free its hostages.

"The pressures from the AFP, with US support, against the Abu Sayyaf is increasing," Blair noted.

He said the goal was "to keep them on the run and make them realize that it is very much in their interest to release all the hostages unharmed and not to take anymore."

"The more effective we become, the sooner it will happen," Blair said. "It is our responsibility to put military pressure on them, and that pressure is rising, and that is the best thing we can do (for) their safe return."

But Blair, on a two-day visit to check on the 660 US troops deployed in the South, stopped short of saying that American soldiers were actively involved in the operations to rescue American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

Cimatu said Blair's statement should not be construed as an admission that US forces in Basilan and Zamboanga City were directly participating in the operations against the bandit group.

He said Blair was referring only to the training provided by US troops to Filipino soldiers.

"The collateral effect of the military presence, with the sense of security and socio-economic development, is (putting) big pressures on them," he said.

Blair also said he had no knowledge that US authorities were negotiating with the Abu Sayyaf for the freedom of the Burnhams.

"I don't follow the other aspect of the Burnhams' situation," he said. "(The only thing) I am concerned with is the continuing application of greater and greater military pressure (on) the Abu Sayyaf, so that they will feel that the Americans have to be released."

Blair said the progress of the joint effort against the Abu Sayyaf "frankly exceeded my expectations."

He said the campaign combined the "high-tech" strength of the US military and the "local knowledge" of the Filipinos toward the single goal of "eliminating terrorism, bringing security, and peaceful development."

Goes without saying

In Manila, Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said it would be silly for the Americans to leave Basilan without the Burnhams.

"Of course, it goes without saying that part of their mission there is to see to it that the American missionary couple is rescued," he said in an interview.

Villar expressed support for the President's position that the US military presence in Basilan should be extended.

"(The Americans) are there to help and we should welcome it," he said, adding that his support extended to "whatever other mission the Americans have in Basilan, particularly the civic action and training exercises."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon also issued a statement welcoming the proposed extension of the Balikatan exercise, saying that its civic action component would help in the development of Basilan.

"The conduct and completion of these civic action projects, especially if these have to do with construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, piers and school buildings, will be a big help to the economic development in the target areas including Basilan," he said.

Biazon also maintained that the extension of the military exercise did not require any modification to the TOR, provided that the extension did not include the US troops' involvement in actual combat operations. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno in Manila; AFP***

Where Jesus was born now a battleground

From page A1

tered glass and welcomed customers.

Young boys ignored the stench of rotting garbage and played beside gutted cars blown up by Israeli troops, who launched their offensive in Bethlehem and other West Bank towns after a wave of suicide bombs killed dozens of Israelis.

A Palestinian woman ran frantically through the streets saying she heard Israeli troops had arrested her son. She found him with his hands behind his back, up against a wall, as Israeli soldiers with M-16 rifles stood guard.

"My son and those men beside him just went to buy food when the curfew was lifted," said the woman. An Israeli soldier said the men were being held as "terror suspects."

Fearing suicide bombers, the troops made a reporter present a press card and place his flak jacket on the pavement to make sure he was not hiding explosives.

Israeli soldiers removed fragments of weapons from the ruins of a small metal workshop which they said was a Palestinian arms factory. "We found five to 10 bomb factories nearby which we have destroyed," said an Israeli officer.

Stun grenades

The week began with Israeli soldiers lobbing stun grenades near the church complex, after Bethlehem residents heard loud explosions and gunfire through the night.

A Palestinian who described himself as a civilian said food and medical supplies were urgently needed in the church.

"There are two dead bodies in here, that have been placed in wooden boxes, that are decomposing," he said. "The situation is very bad."

Yesterday, the Israelis resumed their psy-war campaign, broadcasting ear-splitting noise and repeated calls to surrender to the Palestinians inside the church, traditionally revered as the actual site of Jesus' birth.

Sounds of drilling, animal roars and strident shouts were played over a giant loudspeaker facing the church. Earlier, pre-recorded messages calling on the besieged Palestinians to give up were played for half an hour.

Third night & psy-war

The noise pollution started at midnight (5 a.m. Manila time), an hour earlier than the night before. The operation, on its third night, is part of the campaign to pressure the 200-odd Palestinian gunmen blocked inside the church, along with Bethlehem governor Mohammed Al Madani, other civilians and some clergy, to surrender. It recalls a similar tactic employed by American forces in Panama in 1989, when loud rock music helped drive Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega out of the Vatican embassy he was hiding in. ***Reuters, AP, AFP***

240 Palestinian, 52 Israeli kids killed in fighting

HUMAN rights monitors said some 240 Palestinian and 52 Israeli young people have died since fighting broke out about 18 months ago. The total is more than 15 percent of the overall death toll of 1,800.

Thousands of children have been injured, hundreds permanently. They've learned to maneuver wheelchairs and write left-handed. They carry on with bits of metal, nails and other shrapnel lodged in their bodies.

Children have been among those worst affected by the violence, which fills their lives with fear. Some parents weave the sounds of war into fantasy, telling their kids that the booms are just fireworks.

Many students fall behind in school—if there is a school to go to. Some Palestinian schools in the West Bank have been reduced to rubble. Others have been taken over by Israeli soldiers, sandbagged snipers' nests placed on their roofs. Israeli schools have also been shut and students sent home because of warnings of possible bombings or shooting attacks.

Reminders of innocence—on both Israeli and Palestinian sides—abound.

Fifteen-year-old Nida al-Azza died on her doorstep in the cross fire of Israeli and Palestinian guns last month, but a carton of ice cream her mother bought for her is still in the freezer. Pictures of her round face are taped on walls around her neighborhood in a Palestinian refugee camp in Bethlehem.

About 30 miles away, near Tel Aviv, 17-year-old Simona Rudin was killed by a suicide bomber as she held hands with a friend outside a disco last June. The Jewish girl, too, left reminders: clothes strewn around her bedroom while getting dressed to celebrate after an exam, a mess her father couldn't bring himself to clean up for a month.

Nida's ghost

The ghost of Nida lingers in the jumble of narrow alleys in her Bethlehem neighborhood, the al-Azza refugee camp, where 1,500 Palestinians live in drab cement-block apartments.

On March 9, during an Israeli military offensive, bullets smashed car windows as soldiers and gunmen battled around her home. Nida and her little brothers were running for the door when a bullet hit her in the back. She fell, shouting, "I'm hurt, I'm hurt," her mother, Khoula, recalled.

"I thought she was kidding. Then I saw the blood," the mother said, sitting on a couch in the small house. She said Nida died while she desperately tried to stanch her daughter's wound with her hand.

Near Tel Aviv, Rita Abramov, an immigrant from the southern Russian city of Derbent, lives in fear. It's been nearly a year since the teen was seriously injured when a suicide bombing killed her friend Simona and 21 others outside the Dolphinarium, an open-air seaside disco.

Sitting on a bench in a park full of birds, the girl remembered how on June 1 she and Simona had finished final exams and were happily talking. They got in line at the Dolphinarium.

Simona stood beside her and the two friends held hands. A Palestinian just a few years older than they were mingled in line.

"I looked around and everyone was dressed very nice and smiling," Rita said. "I turned to tell her (Simona) something and I was stopped by the explosion."

Fire and metal slammed them to the ground. Rita couldn't see her friend. Splintered bones jutted from her right arm and leg. "When I was lying on the ground I so wished it would be just a nightmare," she said.

She doesn't go out on Fridays anymore, and avoids crowds. "My fear is sharp," she said. "I know exactly what may happen." ***AP***

Pope summons US cardinals to Rome over sex scandals

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on Monday that the cardinals would meet with some Vatican officials as well as the Pope.

The official said only the eight American cardinals who are in charge of archdioceses will be involved in next week's talks. They are Cardinals William Keeler of Baltimore, Bernard Law of Boston, Francis George of Chicago, Adam Maida of Detroit, Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, Edward Egan of New York, Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia and Theodore McCarrick of Washington.

A spokesperson for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, said the conference's top two officials—Bishop Wilton Gregory, the president, and Bishop William Skylstad, the vice president—will also attend the meeting.

The US Roman Catholic Church is under fire for its handling of a large number of allegations of sex abuse by priests.

The Church is accused of covering up misconduct by priests—in some cases by moving known abusers from job to job. It has already paid millions of dollars in damages and faces numerous lawsuits from victims.

Cardinal Law has acknowledged transferring a priest to another parish despite knowing of sexual misconduct allegations against the man. That defrocked priest was later sentenced to prison.

Egan, who leads the third largest archdiocese, has been accused of helping hide priest sexual-abuse cases when he was bishop of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In Mahony's archdiocese, the nation's largest, reports said there have been about eight recent cases of priests ousted for sexual misconduct. The archdiocese has paid alleged victims millions of dollars.

Mahony himself was recently accused of molesting a woman 32 years ago, but police dismissed that claim last week.

Cardinals are second in the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy only to the Pope. They usually are summoned to Rome only when new cardinals are named or to choose a new pope.

Only one similar meeting of cardinals from one country had been held before, said the Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of the Catholic magazine "America."

In 1989, the Pope summoned all the American archbishops to discuss tensions between US Catholics and the Vatican over issues like remarriage for divorced Catholics and disregard for the Church ban on artificial birth control.

Fil-Ams keeping the faith

Filipino-Americans interviewed by the INQUIRER in Virginia were still keeping the faith amid the sex scandals in the United States. They saw the crisis as an opportunity to "look for the truth" and restore trust by introducing reforms that would address the issue.

Maria Arizabal, 50, a retired bank supervisor, said: "Priests are only human."

"Women, particularly women in the Philippines, tend to idolize priests as persons of authority. Women confide in priests and develop a close attachment to them," Arizabal said.

The scandal has saddened Ed Tiong, a member of Couples for Christ and a medical technologist who heads the Filipino Ministry of Northern Virginia.

"This scandal is unfair and makes it (difficult) for a lot of good priests out there," he said in a telephone interview.

"I know a lot of good priests, and they're suffering because of this. One American priest told me that during a recent flight, his fellow passengers ridiculed him. He didn't lose his cool, but he found the experience unnerving," Tiong said.

Alexander Onguda, 34, an usher at St. Thomas Moore and a member of the Knights of Columbus, said the scandal has not shaken his faith.

"The lesson (during the Holy Week) was suffering and forgiveness, death and resurrection. I believe in all of that," Onguda said.

"The scandal has not affected church attendance, either," he added.

The church seats about 1, 250.

"I see the same Filipino-American families come here, and it seems that after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, they have turned more and more to the Church for strength." ***Reports from AP and Jennie L. Ilustre, PDI Washington correspondent***

House to probe 'behest loans' to Emilio Yap . .

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ning bid of Malaysia's Renong Berhad and ITT Sheraton when the Supreme Court declared in 1997 that the Manila Hotel was part of the national patrimony.

The high court said the sale of the hotel to foreigners would violate the "Filipino First policy" enshrined in the Constitution.

Gonzalez said he also wanted to include the Philippine National Bank in the institutions to be investigated because of a P600-million behest loan granted to Tan, one of Joseph Estrada's cronies.

Gonzalez recalled that Tan's loan was initially turned down because his collateral was raw land in Tagaytay.

But the PNB then headed by Andres Narvasa, who later became Estrada's counsel, suddenly approved the loan.

Gonzalez said the behest loan granted to Tan had been uncovered as early as the Senate impeachment trial of Estrada.

In House Resolution No. 100, Gonzalez asked the committee on good government to look into the reasons why the GSIS, Social Security System, Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines could not collect the loans extended to favored groups and individuals.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno proposed during yesterday's hearing that the committee investigate behest loans of at least P50 million that remain outstanding in the books of GFIs.

Because of time constraints the committee should start the investigation with Yap and Tan, the "two big guns," said Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya, committee vice chair.

The House has yet to schedule the inquiry.

DOH says rare disease in Ormoc not yet confirmed

From page A1

ported in this country.

Dr. Potenciano Larrazabal said he did not discount the possibility that the virus was West Nile. But he said nothing was conclusive as other viruses showed the same symptoms of a West Nile infection like high fever, sore eyes and sore throats.

"This is a very rare (disease). This is the first time it happened," he said.

The doctor, owner of the Cebu Doctors' Hospital, said the Ormoc City government was planning to send blood samples to the United States for laboratory tests.

On Life-support system

Ormoc City Mayor Carmelo Locsin said the family of Marcos Larrazabal II, a 10-year-old who has been declared clinically dead, was seeking the assistance of the US-based Center for Disease Control to "find out more about this particular disease."

Marcos II, a dirt road motorcycle champion, is now dependent on a life-support system at the Cebu Doctors' Hospital.

The Larrazabal family has not given up hope on Marcos II. "His blood pressure is being maintained by medication. His breathing, his respiratory system is being supported by machines," his doctor said.

Dr. Larrazabal, a cousin of the boy's father, said the boy was on medication and they were "hoping that he will wake up."

Marcos II suffered high fever for a day. Then he had convulsions before he fell into a coma. "His brain was severely inflamed, which affected his spinal column," the doctor said.

He, his sister Erika and cousins Miguel and Kolina Kangleon were brought to Cebu on Sunday for treatment. Except for Marcos, the three others were later discharged from the hospital. Eight others were treated at a district hospital in Ormoc City after they suffered high fever and sore eyes.

The children live in the MR compound in Barangay Bantigue, which accommodates eight houses belonging to the Larrazabal clan. They started feeling ill a day after 12 ducks were found floating on a dirty pond inside the compound on April 6.

Dr. Adel Labia, Department of Health in Eastern Visayas-Infectious Disease Cluster coordinator, said the 12 children showed symptoms similar to that of Japanese encephalitis.

"I don't think it (sickness) comes from West Nile as there is no known case that was reported in the country," he said. "If the West Nile virus is confirmed (as the culprit), then it will be the first case in the country."

Mosquito

Ormoc City Health Officer Rogello Marson said it was possible that the virus was transmitted from dead animals through mosquitoes.

"Most likely the virus came from an animal. Then the virus affected man through mosquitoes," Marson said in an interview over the Cebu City-based dyLA, He pointed out that mosquitoes thrived in the compound because of its stagnant water.

But he assured that the virus could no longer affect other residents in Ormoc City because health authorities had already conducted fogging operations.

Locsin said there was no official finding that would confirm that the West Nile indeed caused the illness.

The mayor's wife, Leyte Rep. Victoria Larrazabal-Locsin of the fourth district, is a first cousin of Marcos II's father.

"The Department of Health can possibly come up with conclusive findings before the week ends," the mayor said in a press conference in Ormoc.

The DOH has sent a team of medical personnel from the National Epidemiology Center to ascertain the nature of the disease.

Dayrit said he expected to get a report from the team either last night or today.

He said the West Nile virus had never hit the Philippines, but was recorded to have hit Europe and North America.

Horses

The disease generally originates from horses. The Larrazabals are known to breed horses and other animals.

"Horses are natural reservoirs of the virus. This is one of the diseases of horses," Dayrit said.

Dayrit explained that the virus could be transferred to people by culex mosquitoes that bit the carrier. The transfer of the West Nile disease from an animal to a person is similar to the spread of dengue, a disease transmitted by Aedes aegypti, a day-biting mosquito.

These diseases are classified as "zoonosis," or diseases of animals that eventually infect people, according to Dayrit.

If the West Nile virus did infect the Larrazabals, it could have come from people who traveled to foreign shores, the health secretary said.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Capriati tops WTA rankings

MIAMI, Florida—American Jennifer Capriati, with 4,803 points, topped the latest WTA Tour rankings list released here on Monday. Venus Williams, who won the WTA event on Sunday in Florida, is in second place with 4,669 points. Running third is Martina Hingis with 3,657 points, while Kim Clijsters is at fourth with 3,421 points, followed by Lindsay Davenport with 3,350 points. *AFP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Milwaukee Bucks vs Toronto Raptors at 8 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Anthology - '88 LA Lakers (Back To Back) at 4 p.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - San Marino Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBL: Ateneo seeks 4th straight triumph vs Ana Freezers

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	3	0
John-O-Juzz	3	1
Kutitap	2	1
ICTSI-La Salle	2	1
Ana Freezers	2	2
Blu Sun Power	1	2
Montaña	1	2
RP Youth	0	2
Shark	0	3

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—RP Youth vs ICTSI-La Salle
4 p.m.—Kutitap vs Blu Sun Power
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs Ana Freezers

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation faces another tough customer as it attempts to keep the solo leadership today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Unscathed after three wins, Ateneo, which is using this tournament as part of its buildup for the coming UAAP season, tackles dangerous Ana Freezers in the 6 p.m. match, main attraction of a three-game bill.

Playing with a new-found poise, the Blue Eagles have so far beaten Challenge Cup titleholder Shark Energy Drink, Blu Sun Power and Montaña Jewels.

International Container Terminal Services Inc-La Salle is heavily favored to post its third win when it battles RP Youth in the opener at 2 p.m. Kutitap tackles Blu Sun Power at 4 p.m.

Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia, Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales, Magnum Membrere, Celino Cruz and Jeffrey Anicete are giving the Blue Eagles the extra lift with their heads-up plays.

The Freezer Kings of Rudy Mendoza, however, are no pushovers. After losing their first two games, the Freezer Kings bounced mightily by winning the next two using their trademark run and gun game.

James Laygo, Ronald Tubid, Dondon Mendoza, Jose de Guzman, Leo Vilar and Paul Artadi banner Ana's bid to stop Ateneo.

Kutitap (2-1) and Blu (1-2), both aiming to regain lost ground after losing their last outings, collide at 4 p.m.

Koy Banal's Kutitap bowed to Ana, 79-73, last Monday, while Blu bowed to Ateneo, 58-48, last April 12.

SMB ousts Hapee-RP

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Ginebra

JOEY Mente more than made up for the absence of Lamont Strothers as San Miguel Beer eliminated an undermanned Hapee-RP Team, 76-67, to complete the quarterfinals' cast in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup last night at the Philsports Arena.

The 5-foot-11 Mente made the Beermen forget the one-game suspension slapped on Strothers as the journeyman from the MBA scored 11 points and took charge of San Miguel Beer's final-quarter comeback.

Overlooked by the Nationals, Mente was an awesome sight to behold, getting away with the needed baskets, dishing off timely assists and making the rest of the Beermen on the floor look good as they nailed their fifth win in 10 outings.

"Lamont (Strothers) is a player that won't allow his team to lose easily. But he's not around to give the team the kind of intensity he usually gives. I was just glad Joey (Mente) filled the void," said San Miguel interim coach Siot Tanquincen.

Strothers served his one-game suspension against Hapee-RP and was fined P50,000 for unsportsmanlike behavior during San Miguel's losing endeavor against Sta. Lucia Realty last week.

As if on duty to fill Strothers' absence, Mente scored six straight points at the start of the final quarter that saw the Beermen transform a 59-53 deficit into 61-59 edge.

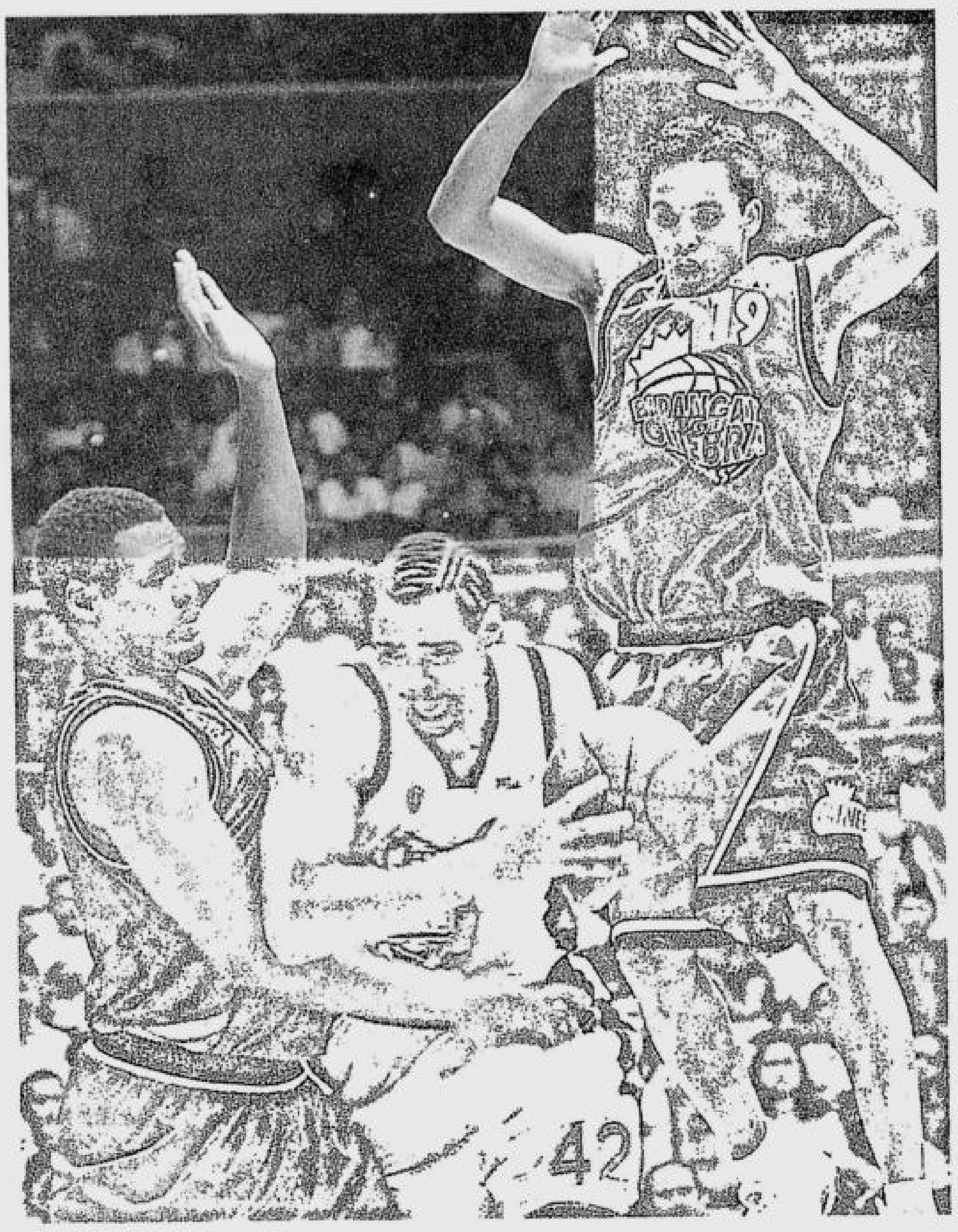
Mente's exploits on the floor drew the ire of Jeffrey Cariaso, who planted a vicious elbow on Mente's throat that forced Tanquincen to momentarily bench the playmaker for a few minutes.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 76—Belasco 20, Bennett 15, Pena 14, Mente 11, Duat 8, Lago 6, Victoria 2, Gamboa 0.

HAPEE-RP TEAM 67—Hatfield 16, Ritualo 13, Cariaso 12, Harp 10, Fernandez 9, Pennisi 7, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 13-17, 36-33, 53-56, 76-67.



RED Bull import Tony Lang barrels through the defense of Barangay Ginebra's Jarrod Gee (left) and Gilbert Malabanan during their PBA game on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. Ginebra prevailed, 98-90, denying Red Bull a twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Waves face Volunteers for top spot

OLONGAPO and Osaka Pangasinan try to take the No. 1 spot in the MBA First Conference when they square off today at the Crusaders of the Divine Church of Christ sports complex in San Fabian, Pangasinan. Game time is 6 p.m.

With identical 2-1 slates, the Volunteers and the Waves are coming into the game via contrasting fates last week. Olongapo fell to the Professional Davao Eagles (97-91), while Pangasinan edged Pampanga Stars (92-90).

The Waves' coach Lawrence Chongson is expected to rely on his 1-2 punch of Chris Clay and Romel Adducul, who has been named the Player of the Week. The duo combined for 52 points in turning back Pampanga last April 14.

However, it was Gilbert Castillo who made the victory possible when he nailed a jumper from the side with five seconds to go.

On the other hand, coach Junel Baculi of Olongapo will depend on Jeffrey Flowers, Johnedel Cardel, Brixter Encarnacion and Henry Fernandez in a hope to post their third victory.

And though the Waves carry an advantage by virtue of having two of the most explosive men in the league, the Volunteers are likely to lean on sheer vaunted teamwork which Baculi has injected on the squad.

Baculi has been reaping rewards for giving extra minutes to low profile players like Kerwin McKoy, Bob Allen, Julius Gonzales and Calijohn Orfrecio.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Francesca La'O beat Australian Jodi Richardson, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, to bag the Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Ladies crown at the Rizal Memorial tennis courts.

Rotary golf tomorrow at Clark's Mimosa

TEAMS from Central and Northern Luzon are out to make a big impact when the Taylor Made-backed Rotary Corporate Challenge, organized by the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGGFP) and hosted by Rotary Club of Angeles Centro, blasts off tomorrow at Mimosa in Clark.

The 36-hole event has lured more than 100 players from all over Luzon made up of Rotarians and their guests who will be eyeing a lot of prides up, both in the tournament and raffle.

The Laus Group of Companies through its chair-CEO Levi Laus is staking an Opel Astra station wagon sponsored by GM Auto World Pampanga for a hole-in-one feat in the first round tomorrow.

Another 2002 Ford Lynx Ghia courtesy of Ford Pampanga will be disputed as a hole-in-one prize on April 19 to cap the Mimosa bash prepared by a host committee headed by Jun Zingalaoa and co-chaired by RC-Angeles Centro president Joey Mendez.

Aside from the Laus Group and Taylor Made, other big backers of the event are Casino Filipino-Mimosa, the Clark Development Corp. through its president and CEO Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles.

Other sponsors are Asahi Glass, PLDT, General Nutrition Center and Philippine Wine Merchants, Hurricane rain gear and Holiday Inn.

Interested corporate teams or Rotary clubs can proceed to the tournament venue for late registration, look for Pancho Perea or Erika Pekson.

Unbreakable to stake clean record

UNDEFEATED and emerging Triple Crown favorite Unbreakable puts his unblemished track record on the line Sunday as he competes in the P1-million PCSO Grand Championship, the highlight event of Philippine Racing Club's five-day racing week at the Santa Ana Park.

Fresh off his resounding victory in last month's Philracom Chairman's Cup, the big finishing dark bay colt will attempt to stamp his class anew against a select field of 3-year-olds and use the race as his springboard to the coveted Cojuangco Cup, the 15th leg of the local Triple Crown Series starting on May 19.

"We are certainly thrilled to host this much-awaited preview of the upcoming Triple Crown Series and are likewise grateful for the generous support given both by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philracom to promote the staging of these quality races," said executive vice president and chief operating officer, Ramon P. Ereneta, Jr.

Set to challenge Unbreakable for the 1,500-meter championship race are nine other crack 3-year-olds led by 2001 Champion 2-Year-Old Filly, Golden Ballet, who will attempt to avenge her only defeat in the recent Chairman's Cup.

Rose lifts Chicago past Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—Jalen Rose scored 32 points, including two foul shots in the final two seconds Monday, to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 98-96 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Philadelphia, which clinched a playoff spot Sunday, rested center Dikembe Mutombo and also was without Allen Iverson (broken left hand), Aaron McKie (eye) and Derrick Coleman (knee).

The loss shuffled the Sixers to a half-game behind Orlando for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference. Eric Snow scored 21 and Jabari Smith added a career-high 14 for the Sixers. Snow missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would've won it.

Celtics 93, Timberwolves 90

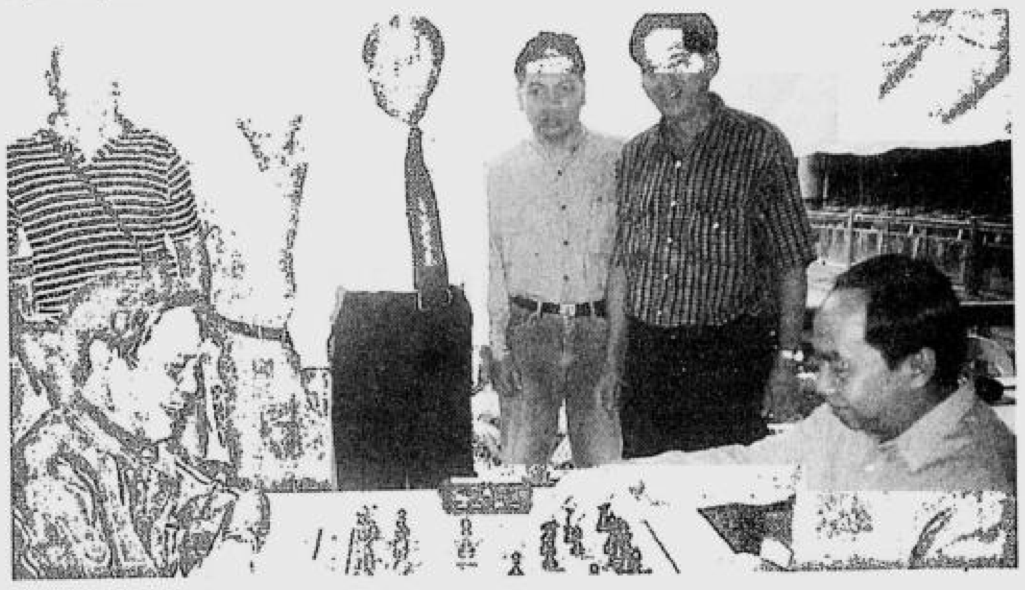
In Minneapolis, Paul Pierce scored 31 points as Boston held off Minnesota.

After trailing for most of the game, Minnesota took advantage of Boston's cold fourth quarter shooting and used a 19-8 run over the last eight minutes to pull within 91-90.

But Wally Szczerbiak, who had been 5-of-5 from the free-throw line in the quarter, missed both attempts after being fouled by Rodney Rodgers with 31.2 seconds remaining. **AP**

Complete results:

Chicago 98, Philadelphia 96; Boston 93, Minnesota 90; L.A. Lakers 111, Seattle 104. **AP**



WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Mat V. Defensor (seated, left) makes the ceremonial moves with NCFP vice president M/Gen. Arturo Carrillo during the opening ceremonies of the semifinal round of the 2002 National Chess Championships at the Centermall of Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan, Metro Manila. Standing (from left) are International Masters Ronald Bancod and Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, NCFP Secretary General Sammy Estimo and Grandmasters Bong Villamayor and Eugene Torre. The winners will advance to the World Chess Olympiad in October in Slovenia.

Nicklaus predicts more Tiger Woods victories

AUGUSTA, Georgia —He has the flair and charisma of Arnold Palmer, the power and intimidation of Jack Nicklaus. Perhaps it won't be long before Tiger Woods has as many green jackets as both of them combined.

That's what Nicklaus predicted when he and Palmer played a practice round on the eve of the 1996 Masters with Woods, who at the time was a student at Stanford University.

Ten green jackets? Everyone scoffed. No one is laughing any more, least of all the guys trying to stop him.

"Something is going on with him that's not going on with us," Davis Love III said.

Now, there's no telling what the future holds for a 26-year-old who collected his seventh major championship in only his 21st attempt as a pro, who has slipped on that Masters green jacket so often that Augusta National chairman Hootie Johnson joked Woods might wear it out by the time his career is over.

"Give him a couple more years, and I think Tiger will be even greater than Jack Nicklaus. It's just a matter of time," Retief Goosen said. **AP**

Butuan hosting junior netfest

AFTER the successful completion of its 4th leg in Baguio City, the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop moves to Butuan City for its 5th leg which will run from April 17-19.

On its 12th straight year, the Milo Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has helped a lot of youth from different parts of the country in developing their skills in the third leading sport in the Philippines. It is also the country's only mass-based, year-round, professionally administered program that promotes tennis to the youth.

Highlighting the program are the Junior Tennis Cup and the Regional Workshop.

MULTIVI MIN

SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES

Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric R. Buhain (center), Centrum's Edwin Kuizo (standing beside Buhain) representing president Eduardo Mendoza, and PSC Commissioner Leon Montemayor are with members of the national pool after the recent MOA signing at the Diamond Hotel. Centrum has pledged P3 million worth of vitamins for national athletes and will donate P500,000 for the Athletes and Coaches Lounge set to be inaugurated on April 19 at the Rizal Memorial Lawn Tennis Center.

Palaro needs additional ₱5-M budget

ORGANIZERS of the 2002 Palarong Pambansa have asked the House of Representatives and the Department of Education for an additional P5 million budget for the staging of the games in Naga City on May 18-25.

This was announced yesterday by the Philippine Sports Commission which is acting as a conduit between the organizers and the Congress in order to raise the amount intended for repairs of sports facilities to be used in the annual sports event.

PSC chair Eric Buhain flew to Naga City yesterday to attend a major organizational meeting with Naga local sports officials and iron out the details of staging of the meet which has been postponed for the past two years.

The amount requested by the Naga organizers is apart from the P46 million allocated by the PSC for the operations of the Games where at least 4,000 participants are expected to come over. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

VIETNAM SEA GAMES

Dayrit bats for golf, bowling inclusion

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said he will fight for the inclusion of bowling and golf in the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

This came after Vietnam SEAG organizers relegated the two sports in the list of disciplines which they can't host because they either "don't play the event or there's no facilities for such sports."

But Dayrit, who came from Vietnam to attend the SEAG Federation, claimed that he was supported by the majority of the federation members who are also pushing for the events which have been "traditionally" included in the SEAG.

Under the present set-up of SEAG Federation members, the host country has the prerogative to choose the sports to be included in the calendar.

He said golf and bowling are in the "third list" of events which Vietnam can't host along with squash, traditional boat race and yachting.

But the POC chief said he is confident that the organizers will consider their stand because they have golf courses and bowling alleys in Vietnam although they reportedly don't have national sports associations in those sports.

"Bowling and golf have very good chances of being included as all other countries supported my proposal," said Dayrit. "Vietnam has the facilities."

The first list of events, according to Dayrit, include 27 disciplines, 24 of which were approved by the federation except for chess, fin swimming and shuttlecock.

The second list contains events which Vietnam is "ready to host upon the recommendation of the Federation" like archery, billiards, fencing, rowing boxing, weightlifting and petanque.

Meanwhile, Dayrit readily accepted the invitation to lead the special tribute for the late Gov. Jose Sering being organized by his chief rival, athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

Dayrit also confirmed his presence in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Milo national open and invitational track and field championship which will be held in honor of Sering on May 1-4.

Mets dump Braves

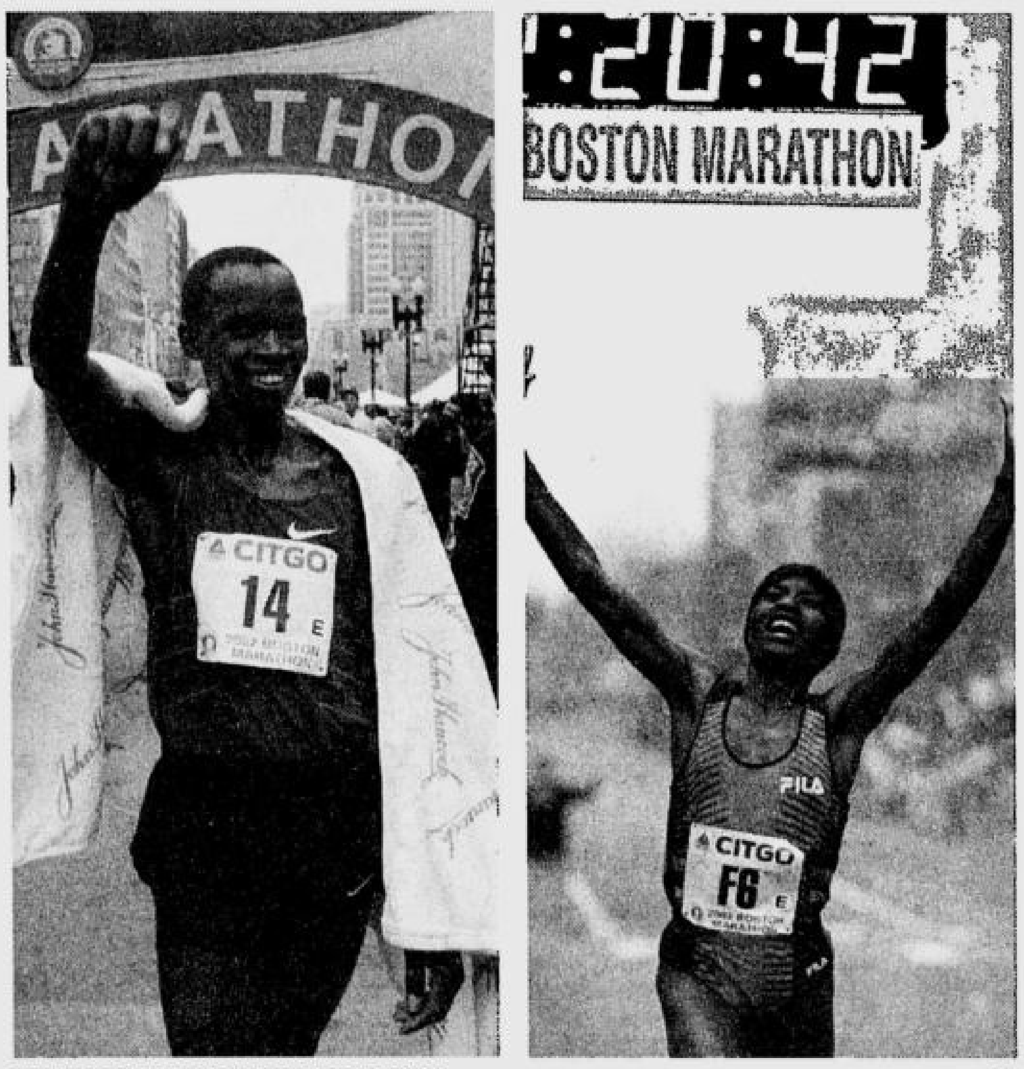
NEW YORK—Mike Piazza homered twice and Edgardo Alfonzo hit a game-winning single in the 12th inning Monday as the New York Mets rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Atlanta Braves 7-6.

Jay Payton, hitless in his first five at-bats, singled with one out in the 12th inning against Chris Hammond (0-1). After Piazza walked with two outs, Alfonzo hit a soft single to right-center off Kevin Gryboski, scoring Payton.

Scott Strickland (1-1) pitched a perfect 12th inning as the Mets won for the fifth time in six games.

Chipper Jones and Gary Sheffield each went 0-for-6 for the Braves, who lost their third straight game and fifth in seven games. Andruw Jones had three hits, including a home run, while Vinny Castilla also homered for Atlanta.

Complete Results—Chicago Cubs 6, Montreal 4; Pittsburgh 6, Milwaukee 1; N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 6, 12 innings; Los Angeles 5, Colorado 2; Arizona 14, St. Louis 5; San Diego 4, San Francisco 3. *AP*



BOSTON MARATHON WINNERS AP

Rodgers Rop (left) led a Kenyan sweep of the first four spots in the Boston Marathon on Monday, winning in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 2 seconds. Margaret Okayo topped the distaff side in 2:20:42.

Brave heart

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MANY cockfighting fans did not know that gentleman-cocker and veteran derby participant Enrique "Henry Tan" of Dynasty and High Chaparral fame was seriously stricken ill last year. But thanks largely to his complete trust in and loyalty to God, Henry recovered from the illness. He is now recuperating in Singapore.

A respected *sabungero* for almost five decades, bespectacled Henry is a familiar face in the local cockpits for personally handling his fighting cocks wearing his patented baseball cap. Through the years, he has rubbed elbows with cockfighting's biggest names such as Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Nene Araneta, the unsinkable James Chiongbian, the late Monching Mitra, Rep. Rudy Albano, Chavit Singson, the Asistio brothers, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco and, in the last two decades, with the sport's other luminaries like Mario Villamor, Jun Santiago, Eddie Araneta, Patrick Antonio, Biboy Enriquez and former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, among others.

Henry Tan fascinated *sabong* fans in 1996 when his Dynasty battle birds emerged co-champions in the prestigious World Slasher 8-Cock Derby, considered as the Olympics of Cockfighting, held at the Araneta Coliseum. In that world-class derby, Dynasty scored a magnificent seven points, sharing top honors with the Cat Stingers of Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco and the Ohatchee Firebird III of hotelier Biboy Enriquez. Early this year, Henry won the Ucap International 9-Cock Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum by fielding an all-imported fighting cocks which he conditioned at his farm in Antipolo City. In his absence, his farm is being managed by longtime right-hand man, August So. Now in his early 60s, Henry, aside from being a famous cocker-breeder, is also a successful businessman, dealing in oil processing and distribution with offices in Manila, Singapore and Malaysia.

***

SLAP ON THE WRIST. The P50,000 fine and one-game suspension imposed on San Miguel's Lamont Strothers (and teammate Mario Bennett) were too light, *bakla* in many ways, proving once more that PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino merely put on kid gloves and slapped their wrists. Indeed, the PBA has no teeth. Considering the gravity of their misconduct, the P50,000 fine (less than $1,000) in particular was hardly felt because these pampered Americans are being paid thousands of dollars monthly. Worse, I gathered that Strothers, who chased and cursed the referee, threw the ball to the stands, took off his jersey and taunted the members of the opposing team in full view of the public, only sent a letter to the commissioner without even apologizing for his misdeed. *Ano ba yan?*

SPORTSWATCH

Sampaguita rally briefing

PARTICIPANTS in the "Shell Helix-Motoring Today Sampaguita Rally–The Subic Experience" are invited to the general briefing on April 20 from 2 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City. Motor sports icon Pocholo Ramirez and veteran rally driver Ike Borja will conduct the briefing together with Motoring Today's Ray "Butch" Gamboa. "It is important for every participant, especially the time and route navigators to attend this briefing to better understand the peculiarities of running this type of car rally compared to the traditional rally that focuses on speed," Gamboa said. The event, set on May 4, will roar off at the Shell North Luzon Tollway Plaza near the Bocaue exit en route to the towns of Bulacan and Pampanga, ending in Subic. After the first leg, there will be a special speed trial at the Subic International Race Track followed by the second leg at the Subic Bay Naval Mag. Those who wish to join may register during the briefing or call 895-3004; 895-8792 and look for AJ Garcia or Grace Barroquillo. The event enjoys the support of Shell Helix, Motoring Today and Absolute distilled drinking water.

De Jesus elected 49k head

LAWYER Abel de Jesus has been elected president of the 49k Golfers Inc. for the term 2002-2003 during the annual election held at the Villamor Golf Club. Other officers elected were Tata Carranceja of Manila Autocenter as vice president; Hory Aycardo of Citiban as secretary; and Bert Deluria of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as treasurer. Elected directors were retired Citibanker Paul Santos; Peter Yap from Pacific Inc.; and Roger Jamora, who was the founding president. 49k is an association of 60 businessmen and senior executives from various local and multinational companies who play golf at the Villamor Golf Club during weekends and holidays. Formed on April 9, 1997, it boasts the biggest membership within Villamor. The group has been holding regular golf tournaments within its membership and guests and had also organized special tournaments to raise funds for charitable causes.

Checkmate classes begin

MILO Checkmate will hold a special summer classes at three Metro Manila venues starting today before proceeding to Regions I and III. Classes in Metro Manila will be held at St. James College QC in Tandang Sora corner Mindanao Avenue from 7-11 a.m. at the Multi-purpose Hall; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila from 9 a.m. 1 p.m. at the Badminton Bldg.; and Greenhills Shopping Center from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the 2/F of Centermall-Bangketa. The tournament is confined to players who are 5-18 years old. Interested parties may proceed at the venues of their choice at least 30 minutes before the clinic starts or call Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560. For the provinces, contact persons are Malolos, Bulacan—Gigi Gatchalian at 693-3557 and 09179085 and Jun Buensuceso at 662-7602; La Union and Dagupan-Tess Bernardino at 0917-832-5417; Vigan and Ilocos Sur-Darwin Dulay of Zenith Tailoring at 722-7104 and 0917-0374412.

Sports Grill honors graduates

THE NATIONAL Sports Grill, the "undisputed king of sports grills," honors the 2002 graduates with a special promo of free one-hour billiard playtime. Graduates have to bring their graduation program, highlight their name and present their valid school ID or any proof of graduation (diploma, grad picture) to NSG located at the 3rd level, Greenbelt I, Ayala Center Makati not later than April 30 to claim their Graduate Profile Card. After filling it out, they can use it on the same day or at a latter date. Upon bill out, graduates (18 years old and above) will be given a choice of either P250 gift certificate or a beer bucket stub which they can use on their next visit. The National Sports Grill boasts of its state-of-the-art jumbotron and numerous TV monitors, which feature live and classic sporting events and programs. NSG also holds the family billiards tourney every month. For inquiries, call 752-5431.

NCA derby holds finals tonight

FOUR entries are setting the pace in the all-star NCA 7-Cock Derby which enters its four-cock finals tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Leading the pack with three straight wins after last Monday's elimination matches are Binangonan MK of former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Manny Kho, Mulawin Jinfer of Pampanga's famous Jingco brothers and Frank Berin, Geran JJM of Jong Jong Morales and Gerry Fevidal and Mulawin LBJ of Luis Bersamin. With 2.5 points are Meycauayan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla and Geran of Gerry Fevidal while posting two points apiece are eight entries led by Firefly Thunderbird 8 of Ram Lopez and the Firefly Group, LCC of Louie Cua, MBJ-SPC of derby host Boyet Joson and Muroy Dolorico and Cat Stingers of Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco. The next NCA 7-Cock derby will be held on April 22-24, with Gerry Fevidal and Jong Jong Morales as hosts.

Ramirez tops Asia car race Division 2

SUBIC—Toni Ruokonen of Finland completed impressive back-to-back victories in his Peugeot 306, even as the Philippines' Georges Ramirez of Globe-Petron made the country proud during the kickoff rounds of the Asian Touring Car Series at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

Ruokonen, the WK Longman Racing Team's "Flying Finn," displayed superb driving skills to complete a sweep of the first two rounds of this annual championship organized by the Malaysia-based Motorsports Asia Ltd. in cooperation with Sports Values Inc. (SVI).

Ruokonen, who is best remembered for winning the Class B title in the 2000 British Touring Car Championship, clocked 26:52.402 in the first round and 28:49.855 in the second round. Among the spectators were Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair Felicito Payumo and SVI president and race legend Pocholo Ramirez.

Ruokonen also posted the fastest lap time of 1:26.296 in the fifth lap of the afternoon race at the newly lengthened 3-kilometer racetrack near the Subic international airport.

"It's really very difficult, especially the next round in Johor, Malaysia," said Ruokonen, who also submitted the fastest time in the qualifying race Saturday.

But the day also belonged to Ramirez, who outdueled Macau Grand Prix veteran Lo Ka Chun of Hong Kong to rule the first round of the Division II in his Honda Integra.

Coseteng posts SVI Cup win

SUBIC—The Caltex-Havoline-Globe Racing Team scored a rousing debut as ace driver Jody Coseteng and two others pulled impressive wins Sunday at the kickoff of the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway here.

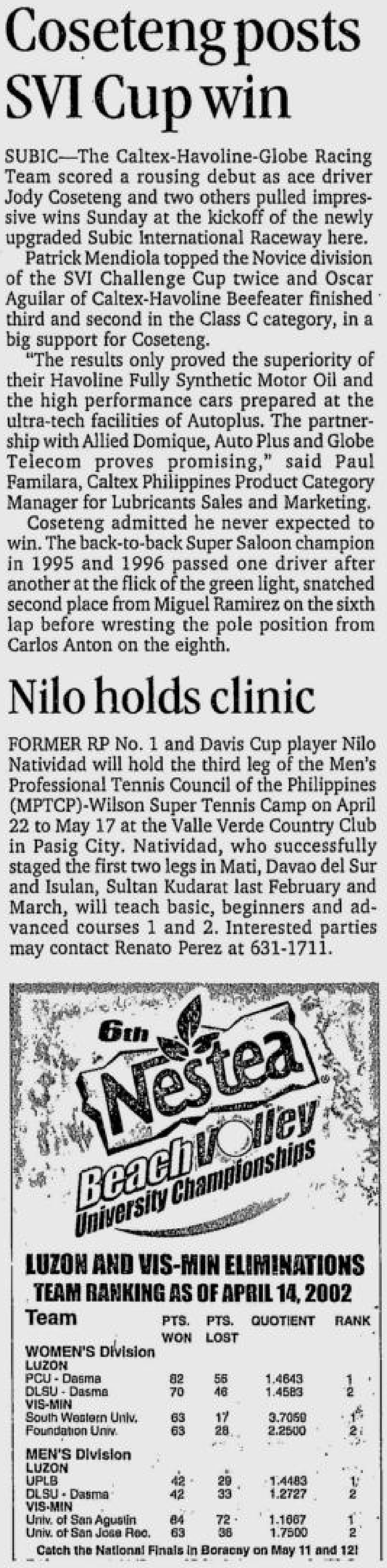
Patrick Mendiola topped the Novice division of the SVI Challenge Cup twice and Oscar Aguilar of Caltex-Havoline Beefeater finished third and second in the Class C category, in a big support for Coseteng.

"The results only proved the superiority of their Havoline Fully Synthetic Motor Oil and the high performance cars prepared at the ultra-tech facilities of Autoplus. The partnership with Allied Domique, Auto Plus and Globe Telecom proves promising," said Paul Familara, Caltex Philippines Product Category Manager for Lubricants Sales and Marketing.

Coseteng admitted he never expected to win. The back-to-back Super Saloon champion in 1995 and 1996 passed one driver after another at the flick of the green light, snatched second place from Miguel Ramirez on the sixth lap before wresting the pole position from Carlos Anton on the eighth.

Nilo holds clinic

FORMER RP No. 1 and Davis Cup player Nilo Natividad will hold the third leg of the Men's Professional Tennis Council of the Philippines (MPTCP)-Wilson Super Tennis Camp on April 22 to May 17 at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City. Natividad, who successfully staged the first two legs in Mati, Davao del Sur and Isulan, Sultan Kudarat last February and March, will teach basic, beginners and advanced courses 1 and 2. Interested parties may contact Renato Perez at 631-1711.



6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships

LUZON AND VIS-MIN ELIMINATIONS
TEAM RANKING AS OF APRIL 14, 2002

Team	PTS. WON	PTS. LOST	QUOTIENT	RANK
WOMEN'S Division				
LUZON				
PCU - Dasma	82	56	1.4643	1
DLSU - Dasma	70	46	1.4583	2
VIS-MIN				
South Western Univ.	63	17	3.7059	1
Foundation Univ.	63	28	2.2500	2
MEN'S Division				
LUZON				
UPLB	42	29	1.4483	1
DLSU - Dasma	42	33	1.2727	2
VIS-MIN				
Univ. of San Agustin	84	72	1.1667	1
Univ. of San Jose Rec.	63	36	1.7500	2

Catch the National Finals in Boracay on May 11 and 12!

Anton finishes runner-up twice

GULF Oil-zed-MP Turbo's Carlos Anton chalked up two second place finishes in the opening rounds of the 2002 Petron Blaze Super Saloon series held on Sunday in the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

The team's performance was credited to Gulf Oil, the lubricant specialist, and zed, the world's largest mobile services provider.

Additional support came from Abante newspaper, Francisco Motors Corp., yehey.com, AER Engines, Rota Wheels, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, EBC Brakes, Racegear, BLTBCo., No Fear, Gatorade, Gandour Candies, Rainforest Mineral Water, Bavarian Machine Works, Motolite Batteries and Fastrack.

The three-time Production Class champion steered an MP Turbo prepared Honda Civic EG6 around the slippery new track and gained P2 at the starting grid behind Miguel Ramirez of Globe-Petron Team.

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txtrs 5

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Advantage/ @Text	10 raffle points
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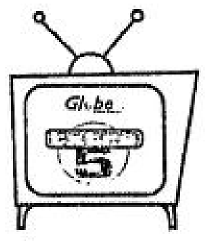
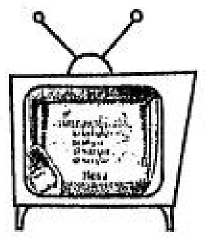
STEP 2

Tune in to TXTRS 5 on GMA (Sundays, 8pm) to raise your chances of winning!



STEP 3

Watch out for the Missing Lyric Question.



STEP 4

Text in your answer, along with your name and address to 2255. Every time you text in the correct answer, you earn another raffle point.

A Juan Cruz
33 Xavierville
Quezon City

2255

STEP 5

Keep on texting! The more you text, the better your chances of winning!

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Sent

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

We have no choice but to honor trash deal, says Abalos /A24

Boy, 14, shoots sis, 18 /A24

'No permit, no rally'

Mayor wants better police control of crowds

By Jerome Aning

FOLLOWING two violent dispersals of demonstrations in Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said the city government would strictly impose the "no permit, no rally" policy.

Atienza said City Hall would no longer allow "lightning rallies" because it is "obvious that the holding of such actions (is meant) to cause disturbance."

He told Western Police District director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. to formulate "a more systematic and efficient manner" in handling crowds.

Pasinos, in his monthly news conference yesterday, said he formed a panel to investigate the policemen involved in the dispersals at the United States Embassy on Monday and at the Supreme Court building last Friday.

WPD deputy director for administration Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco will head the panel. The policemen who would be investigated belong to the WPD-district contingency and disturbance management group.

Pasinos said he was saddened and angered by the aggressiveness of his men. But asked if he thought the dispersals were violent, he said: "It would have been more violent if we had used tear gas and fire trucks in dispersing them."

The dispersals were criticized by various sectors which accused the police of not exercising maximum tolerance and not following rules of engagement.

At least 10 people were hurt after police drove away members of the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy who picketed the US Embassy. Two protesters were also arrested.

The militant youths were protesting the holding of the Balikatan exercise by US and Philippine troops in Mindanao.

In the Friday dispersal, police allegedly beat up some members of the Union of Masses for Democracy and Justice during a rally in front of the SC building on Padre Faura Street.

But Pasinos said the SC dispersal was backed by a memorandum from Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. himself, which barred any protests within 250 meters of the High Tribunal.

Atienza said policemen who cannot abide by his new policy "have no place in the city."

"They should be reassigned to war-torn areas in Mindanao (where) they can prove their bravery in combat and not against unarmed and peaceful protesters," he said.

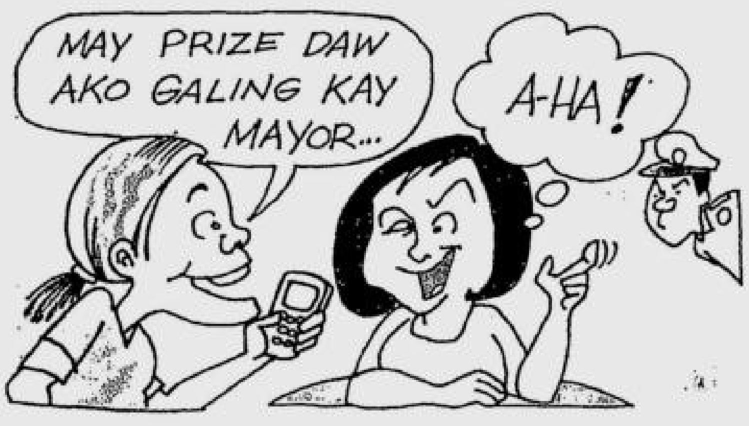
He said that if protest participants do not resort to violence and do not pose a danger to anyone, then there is no need to disperse them as they are just exercising their rights.

He said that in most cases, all that is needed is "a little diplomacy" on the part of the police. "It is better to talk to leaders of protesting groups and explain how far they could go under the law," he said.

NO PERMIT/ A24

KIDDIE SUMMER

Despite the burning heat, this vendor walks the streets of the city because he says his colorful balloons sell briskly, since children are on their summer vacation and can easily nag their elders to buy them these bobbing balls of air. ERIK ARAZAS


MAY PRIZE DAW AKO GALING KAY MAYOR...
A-HA!

How to recover lost cell phones

"YOU have just won P1,500!"

Annie Palahang, 36, of Makati City, sent this text message to the number of her cell phone, which had been stolen a few days ago while she was waiting on customers at an information desk inside a mall in Makati.

The suspect, Ma. Dorisa J. Guevarra, 35, of Valenzuela City, was arrested yesterday after she tried to claim the cash prize at the Makati City Hall Public Information Office.

Palahang had also sent a text message that the winner could claim the cash prize at the Makati City Hall courtesy of Mayor Jejomar Binay, who she said was giving it as a Labor Day gift.

Palahang told police she sent the message to the number of her stolen Nokia 3310, after she had called it repeatedly.

She said she had saved money for three months so she could buy the phone.

But Palahang only got back her SIM card yesterday.

Police said Guevarra had only Palahang's SIM card and was using another unit when she was arrested.

She also denied stealing Palahang's cell phone, saying a stranger had given her the SIM card, police said. Guevarra was detained at the Makati police station. ***Alcuin Papa, Alaina Labit, Regina Rubio, Christian Castro***

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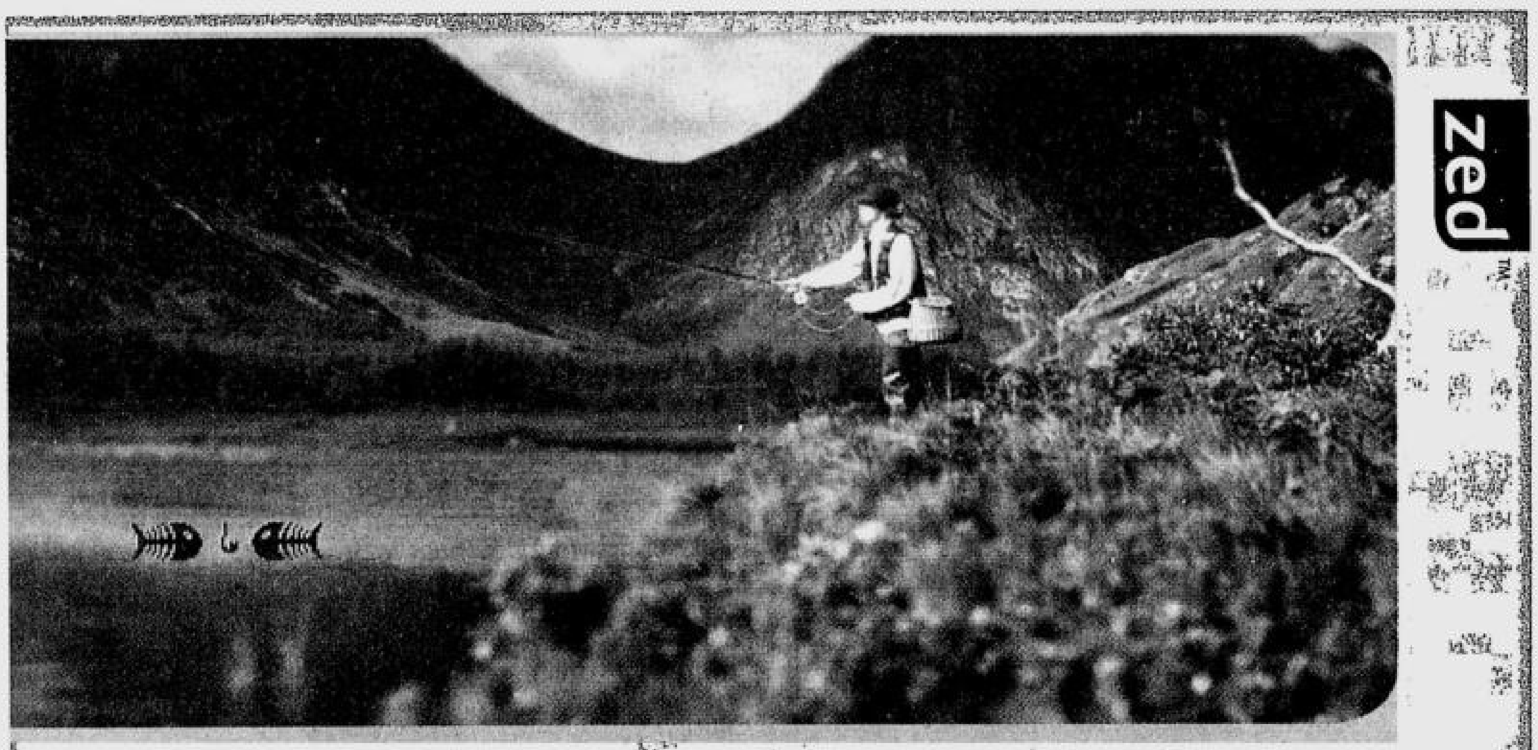
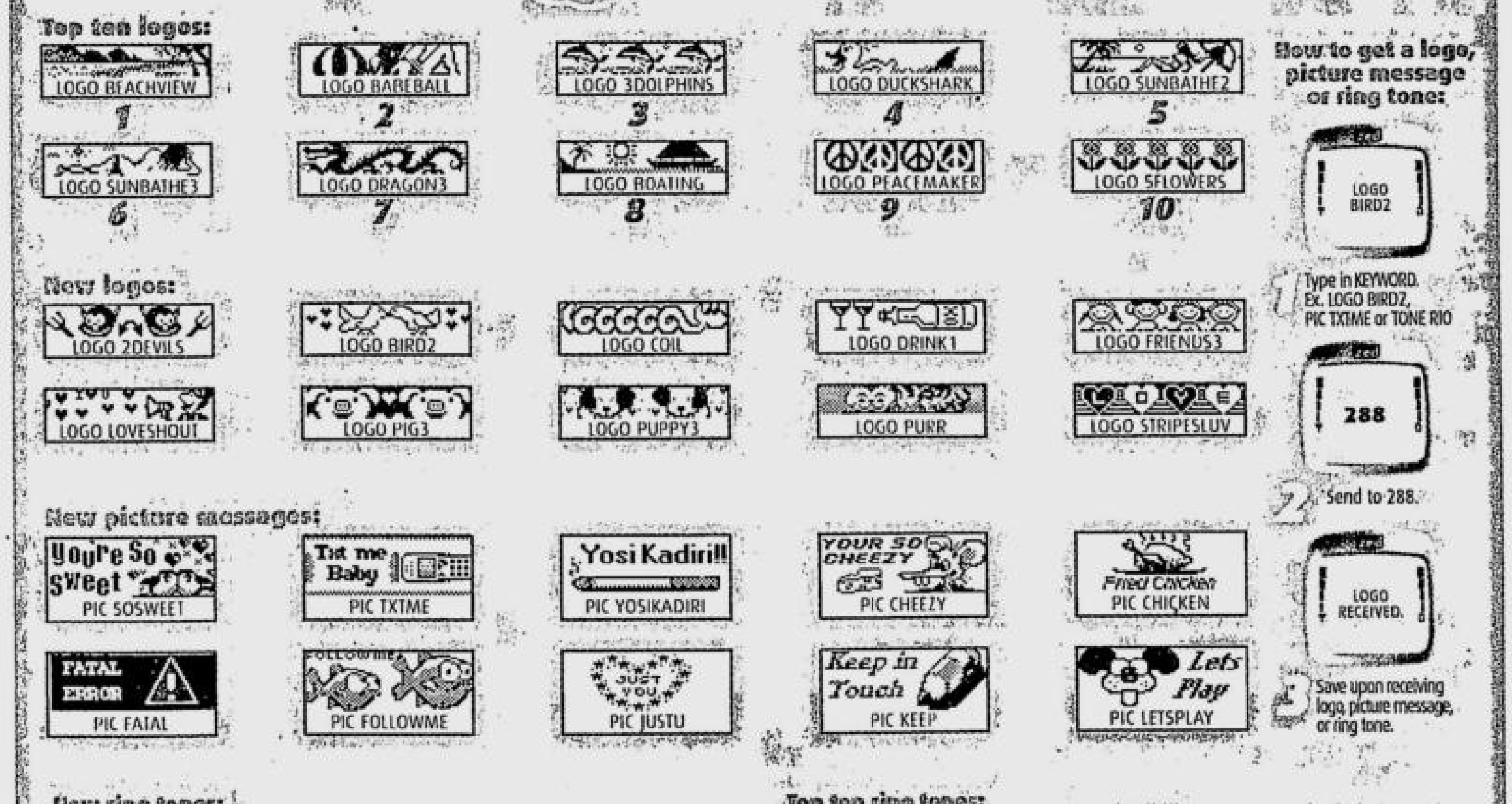


Catch the hottest picks this summer. Get hooked on the hottest zed logos, ring tones and picture messages from April 10 to 15.



Top ten logos:
1 LOGO BEACHVIEW
2 LOGO BAREBALL
3 LOGO 3DOLPHINS
4 LOGO DUCKSHARK
5 LOGO SUNBATHE2
6 LOGO SUNBATHE3
7 LOGO DRAGON3
8 LOGO BOATING
9 LOGO PEACEMAKER
10 LOGO 5FLOWERS

New logos:
LOGO 2DEVILS
LOGO BIRD2
LOGO COIL
LOGO DRINK1
LOGO FRIENDS3
LOGO LOVESHOUT
LOGO PIG3
LOGO PUPPY3
LOGO PURR
LOGO STRIPESLUV

New picture messages:
PIC SOSWEET
PIC TXTME
PIC YOSIKADIRI
PIC CHEEZY
PIC CHICKEN
PIC FATAL
PIC FOLLOWME
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PIC LETSPLAY

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:
1 Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO BIRD2, PIC TXTME or TONE RIO
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New ring tones:

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Fly Away	Lenny Kravitz	TONE FLYAWAY
May It Be (Lord Of The Rings)	Enya	TONE MAYITB
Do You Wanna Dance	Hurricanes	TONE DOUWANNA
Never Can Say Goodbye	Gloria Gaynor	TONE NEVERCAN
Rhythm Is Gonna Get You	Gloria Estefan	TONE RHYTHMIS
Rio	Duran Duran	TONE RIO
American Woman	Lenny Kravitz	TONE AMERICANWO

Top ten ring tones:

1	Uptown Girl	Billy Joel	TONE UPTOWN
2	We Will Rock You	Queen	TONE ROCKYOU
3	Superman	Five For Fighting	TONE SUPERMANS
4	Lade Marmalade	Christina Aguillera	TONE MARMALADE
5	Maria Maria	Santana	TONE MARIA
6	Special Alert Tone	Zed	TONE SMS
7	Commando	Zed	TONE COMMANDO
8	What Can I Do	The Corrs	TONE WATCANIDO
9	Butterfly	Crazy Town	TONE BUTTERFLY
10	She's The One	Robbie Williams	TONE SHESDONE

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Promo period is from March 15 - June 15, 2002 • Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0245 Series of 2002 • See flyers for details.

CALTEX What Drives You

Salute to the police and an alert general

(MOVABLE HEAT: Thank God, Labor Day will again be on 5/01, says this texter, and not 4/29 as earlier announced by Malacañang. Anyway, this same message sender warns that, based on the presidential mood, Independence Day threatens to be on 6/10 and Xmas Day on 12/23! A timely reminder: Pls adjust ur bday accordingly.... From one jolly fellow: Russia was first in space, USA landed the first men on the moon. Our deposed chief of state, however, swore in all gallantry RP would beat everybody to the sun. That would be impossible, he was told, because the Pinoy crew would melt in the heat. No, we go there at night, he retorted.)

* * *

IT was a stirring $1-million rescue.

It was, however, a headline today only and summarily forgotten tomorrow.

A Chinese-Filipino businessman abducted by heavily armed men in front of the Cainta cockfight stadium the other Sunday was rescued after a brief gunfight in a Caloocan subdivision last Friday. He was Albert Yam, a merchant.

The swiftness of the police operation, mind you, was not a national record.

Just the same, the story was flashed in big, bold letters the following morning, a Saturday.

It's not every weekend that police are able to score big against crime syndicates.

Now, if we go by statistics, the name of the victim will fade as just another line in police records.

But the public is fully aware of the real score: Outlaws are often ahead of lawmen in this tragic battle between cops and assorted crooks.

There's no need to read the charts.

In fact, it's public knowledge that there were many unreported kidnappings wherein enormous ransom had been paid—without the knowledge of authorities.

* * *

You probably don't know this. But, were it not reported, that Yam case that was solved by the police on Friday could've again ended up as another secret triumph for criminal elements.

Why? First of all, the abductors had given very strict orders to Yam's family never ever to report the kidnapping to the police.

Yam was abducted around 8 p.m.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Sunday. Some two hours later, his family received a call from the kidnappers demanding $1 Million for Yam's freedom.

The abductors used Yam's cell phone to phone in their demand.

Shortly before midnight of the same day, Yam's car was recovered in a gas station.

There were no signs of struggle. Yam, stunned, must've yielded meekly.

His immediate relatives, including his wife and frantic mother, could only cry and clam up.

The poor mother was left sobbing and praying in a dark corner of their house.

* * *

Unknown to the Yams, the police starting that same evening had gone all out to rescue the victim.

Call it a gamble or plain coincidence. But one very close friend of Yam, civic leader Nandy Charvet of Mandaluyong, called up shortly after 10 p.m. to report the abduction.

No time was wasted. We contacted Gerry Lirio, INQUIRER city editor, who was instructed to get in touch with Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office who first came to mind when we got the info on the Yam abduction. Gerry Lirio was assisted by reporter Christian Esguerra.

Charvet would later explain that he made his move as there were many people who saw the daring abduction, and that it would be impossible to keep the kidnapping from the public.

Alerted, Gen. Aglipay obviously did not sleep a wink that night.

He was burning the lines until the wee hours.

Later informed that a bigger entity was taking over the case, Aglipay assured that they would not pull out.

He vowed to provide that bigger entity a solid back-up team.

* * *

For days, everybody was kept in gripping suspense.

There was no contact again from the kidnappers, whatsoever.

The Yams, forlorn, were at a loss. All they could do was pray and wonder miserably.

There were reports of kidnappers who would set the place for a payoff, but would not show up at the appointed moment.

There were fears negotiations could drag for months.

It was only after the successful rescue when it was known that the kidnappers had set last Friday as the deadline for the Yams to pay the $1-million ransom.

* * *

Our cell phone rang very early, shortly after six on Friday morning.

"We've rescued your friend some 30 minutes ago," exclaimed the familiar voice. "This one's for you, *para sa iyo 'to.*"

It was Gen. Aglipay, and he sounded both fulfilled and overjoyed.

It was stunning—and definitely very humbling—how Aglipay had assured this reporter that the successful rescue was dedicated to him.

It was neither my birthday nor my wedding anniversary.

But Gen. Aglipay decided to go out of his way to make sure that everything was now fine with Albert Yam.

* * *

Over the subsequent news stories, Nandy Charvet reported that it was actually a big composite group that worked on the Yam case. It involved operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

One member of the gang was slain in a brief gunfight while nine of his companions were captured.

The raiding team, Charvet confirmed, was headed by Maj. Ferdinand Vero, chief inspector of CIDG intelligence unit. Vero personally took Yam out of the dark, rat-infested basement where he was kept.

Gen. Aglipay, who helped supervise operations, was the highest officer to initially welcome Yam upon the rescue.

The case will soon be overtaken by bigger, more memorable events.

Just the same, the story will not be complete without the final statement from the victim who, in saluting a brave, dedicated general, is now reminding everybody: "Do have faith in the police."

And not because they did not have to pay a single cent.

We have no choice but to honor trash deal, says Abalos

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has no choice but to honor its deal with the garbage firm Jancom after the Supreme Court upheld the contract's validity, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday.

(See related story on Page A1)

Abalos also appealed to environmental groups opposing the current renegotiations for the contract to keep an open mind.

"At this point, we have no choice but to honor the contract since no less than the Supreme Court has recognized its validity," he said.

Abalos said the MMDA is trying to strike a compromise with Jancom Environmental Corp. to ensure that the contract will not be disadvantageous to the public.

"What we need is a win-win solution, not conflict among ourselves," Abalos said.

He said Jancom officials had already agreed to "downgrade" their system of garbage disposal from an incinerator to a landfill to fit the requirements of the Clean Air Act of 1999.

Abalos said Jancom's decision to "downscale" its facility should address the issue of the contractor's non-compliance with the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Solid Waste Management Act.

"It's no longer an incinerator so I think there should be no more problems," Abalos said. He said Jancom had also agreed to reduce its tipping fee.

"But I don't want to talk about the price," Abalos said. "As far as the pricing is concerned, I'll refer the matter to Neda (National Economic Development Authority)."

The Concerned Citizens Against Pollution had argued that there can be no renegotiations for the contract between the MMDA and the Jancom unless the garbage firm enters into a separate deal.

FLOOD-CONTROL PROJECT

'Imeldas will die'

By Christian V. Esguerra

FARMERS and fishermen on Monday night held a "wake" in front of the Japanese Embassy in Pasay City to denounce the P2.9-billion flood control project near the Laguna Lake.

The Community Organizers Multiversity led residents of Taguig and Rizal to hold a "wake" for a species of carp whose existence at the lake they said is threatened by the 9.8-kilometer road dike project.

The protesters placed three big head carps in black makeshift coffins with white crosses to symbolize the threat to their survival.

The big head carps, so named because their heads are as big as their bodies, are also known as "Imeldas," named after former First Lady Imelda Marcos who first brought and cultured the fish in the country.

Protesters claimed President Macapagal-Arroyo committed a "heinous crime of genocide" of the fish in Laguna Lake when she approved the construction of the road dike project.

Boy Marcelino, team leader of the Community Organizers Multiversity, said the project also threatened the livelihood of about 76,000 families living in coastal towns around the lake.

In a statement, the group said Ms Macapagal has committed "a crime to hundreds of farmers, fishermen, and urban poor families who may suffer the same fate (as) the big head carps."

Malacañang earlier suspended the construction of the dike system, which will stretch from Taguig to Taytay in Rizal, amid protests from residents and local politicians.

Last month, Ms Macapagal ordered the resumption of the construction after she supposedly conducted a series of consultative meetings with residents.

But protesters were anything but convinced by the President's assurance that the project is the key that will finally solve the perennial flood problem of Metro Manila.

Marcelino said Malacañang gave the go-signal for the construction so as not to upset the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which is funding the project.

The government, he claimed, also failed to address the concern that the project will lay waste to farm lands—about 1,300 hectares in Taguig alone.

"It will also hit houses and have devastating effects on the ecology," Marcelino said.

Boy, 14, shoots sis, 18

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy on Monday accidentally shot dead his 18-year-old sister in their house in Las Piñas City, police said.

The boy mistook a .38-caliber revolver for a toy gun and fired at his sister at 6:40 p.m. in their house in Barangay Talon, police said. The bullet hit the sister in the left shoulder and went through her chest, police said.

She died before she could arrive at the Perpetual Help Hospital.

The boy initially fired the gun at a cousin while they were playing in the bedroom of their house, investigation showed. The gun did not fire the first time, police said.

The boy then jokingly pulled the trigger while his sister was coming out of the bathroom.

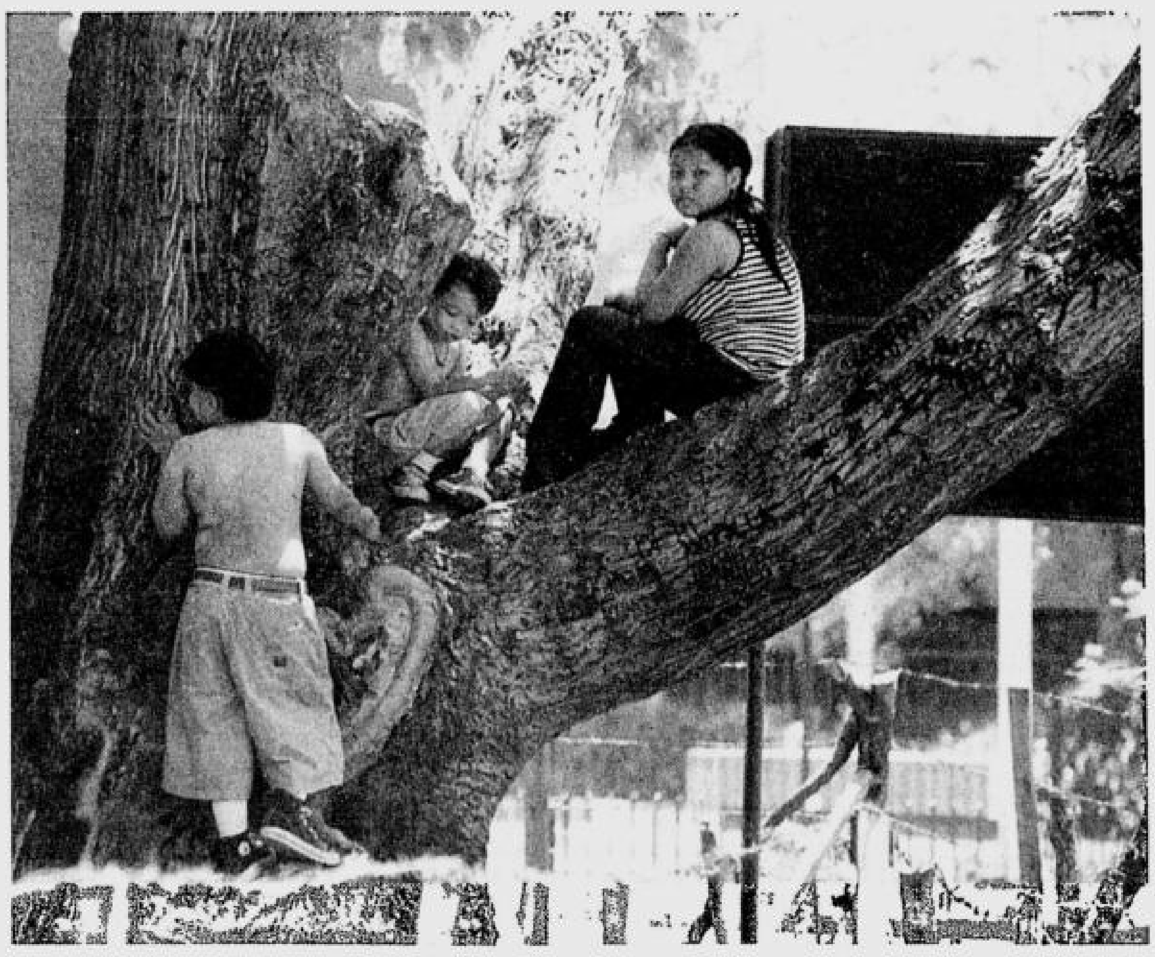
Christian V. Esguerra

Torres High free clinic

TORRES High School Class 1955, a private foundation dedicated to helping Tondo's poor, is holding its 18th annual free medical and dental clinic on Sunday, April 21, at Torres High School on Juan Luna Street in Tondo from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The clinic includes medicines and vitamins, circumcision, dental and eye checkup and treatment, blood pressure checkup and consultation.

For details, call Faustino Perez, 254-4770, Elvira Ocampo-Esquillo, 253-8370, or Luis Sioson, 843-2469.



BARE IT

These boys know how to be out in the sun and enjoy it, by taking off their shirts as they play on the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex. ERIK ARAZAS

Helper dies in fall from 17th floor

A 49-YEAR-OLD house help died after allegedly jumping from the 17th floor of a condominium in Ermita, Manila late Monday night.

Victoriana Gadiana, single, a stay-in helper at the 1501 Metropolitan Tower on A. Mabini Street, suffered a cracked skull and severe bone injuries, police said.

SPO2 Danilo Vidad said he learned that the victim lost P45,000 to three armed men who held her up a few days ago. Gadiana had just come from a bank to withdraw the money which she had been saving for treatment of her tuberculosis, police said.

Gadiana's employer was a New Zealander who asked not to be identified.

Police, however, did no immediately rule out foul play as the case was still under investigation.

Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 17, 2002
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 8:1-8
Gospel:	**Jn 6:35-40**

Jesus said to the crowd, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty. Nevertheless, as I said, you refuse to believe, even when you have seen. Yet, all that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me, I shall not turn away. For I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.

And the will of him who sent me is that I lose nothing of what he has given me, but instead that I raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall live with eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Commentary

Over and over again Jesus says, "Believe in me, sent by the Father, and receive our gift, eternal life." He says, "I am the bread of life." He does not say, "I am the fried chicken, the caviar of life." If he were in the Philippines he would say, "I am the rice of life." He identifies himself with what is basic and necessary, the simple, staple foodstuff of his culture. That on which our life most depends on what we fall back on, what we look for no matter how many fancy foods are available. "I am the foundation of your life. I am there in the ordinariness of your life." John is a true evangelizer. He presents the longing thirst of Jesus to get past our barriers, our hardness of heart. "Come to me, that you may have life, life in all its fullness."

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Solon appeals for extension

By Christian V. Esguerra

MUNTINLUPA Rep. Ruffy Biazon on Monday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend and expand the suspension of the toll fee increase on the North and South Luzon expressways.

Biazon asked Malacañang to issue another suspension order to prevent the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the PNCC Skyway Corp. from collecting higher fees beginning July.

The PNCC runs the Alabang-Calamba portion of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), while the PNCC Skyway Corp. operates the Skyway System.

Biazon said a new suspension order should also cover the elevated section of the Skyway System from Buendia to Bicutan and the at-grade portion from Magallanes to Alabang where rates were increased by P10.

He said the PNCC Skyway Corp. has the option to increase its rates up to P75 by July.

Late last year, the Toll Regulatory Board authorized the PNCC and the PNCC Skyway Corp. to jack up toll fees on the Skyway and the expressways from Jan. 1 to June 30.

They were also allowed to implement another increase from July to December, Biazon said.

Last January, President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended the collection of new fees at the Alabang-Calamba portion of the SLEX and at the entire NLEX following howls of protests from motorists. She gave her Cabinet until March to look into complaints that the toll increase was onerous, exorbitant, and arbitrary.

'No permit, no rally'

From page A23

Atienza advised groups planning to hold rallies in Manila to first get a valid permit from City Hall.

"If it is clear that you just want to express your grievances in a lawful manner, there's no reason why you should not get a permit," the mayor said.

He said the policy is for the protection of the protesters.

Children with ADHD

THE MAKATI Social Welfare Department in coordination with the Foundation for Children's Educational Integration Inc. Teacher-Mom is holding a seminar on "Understanding Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)" on April 26, 2002 on the 3rd floor, Session Hall, of the old Makati City Hall.

The speakers are Dr. Leticia Penano-Ho, clinical psychologist, consultant and dean of Special Education at the University of the Philippines; psychologist Martha R. Tan, and Cristy Canizares-Gacuma, school director of FCEII-Teacher-Mom.

Teacher-Mom is at 9007 Hormiga St., Barangay Valenzuela, Rizal Village, Makati. It has a branch at 94 Banawe St., cor. Macopa Street, Soledad Bldg., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

Interested parties may call 899-36-68 or e-mail teacher_mom@edsamail.com.ph.

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Are evening news shows ready to go off the air?

NEW YORK—It's tempting to write off broadcast network evening news programs in the United States as relics of another time.

The three evening news shows, which once commanded three-quarters of the TV audience, now claim less than half. Morning shows and cable news are eating away at their relevancy, and their audiences are aging.

Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings and Dan Rather, each an evening news anchor for two decades, are all nearing or past normal retirement age.

And the ABC broadcasting network's recent attempt to replace "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel with David Letterman provided fresh evidence that the giant media companies that own TV networks aren't afraid to threaten news institutions if they see a compelling business interest.

News business

Is a giant tree in the television news business ready to fall?

Don't hold your breath. It would be a mistake to conclude that the NBC broadcasting network's "Nightly News," ABC's "World News Tonight" or the "CBS Evening News" are headed for extinction soon - even when their current anchors step down.

Simply put, the long-term harm to the networks' owners is likely to outweigh any short-term financial benefit that could be gained by replacing the news with more profitable programming.

And although it's too early to tell whether the steady decline in viewership has ended, more people are actually watching these programs this year than last.

"My view is that the genre is alive and well," said Steve Capus, executive producer of "Nightly News." "What all three of us do is provide an extremely valuable service to the American audience and I think that's going to be in demand for a long time to come."

Competitive

The three shows are certainly as competitive as ever. Brokaw and Jennings traveled to the Middle East late last month for the Arab Summit. Rather came a week later—and his producer chided ABC and NBC in print for sending their anchors home when warfare spun out of control.

The need for a 22-minute summary of the day's news would seem an anachronism now that the CNN broadcasting network, Fox News Channel, the MSNBC cable TV network and the Internet all offer news instantly. According to a survey by the Pew Research Center last fall, 53 percent of viewers said cable was their main source of TV news.

Yet each weeknight, more than 31 million people watch a network evening news program. The most popular cable news program, Fox's "The O'Reilly Factor," typically draws nearly 2.1 million viewers a night.

Depth and context

Evening news producers say the existence of cable news has forced them to add depth and context, partly in contrast to the breathless "news as it happens" style of cable during the day.

"I always appreciate that we live in a universe with a lot of information," said Paul Slavin, executive producer of "World News Tonight."

The networks' advantage in offering perspective was on display after Sept. 11, said Frank Sesno, a former CNN Washington bureau chief who now teaches at George Mason University.

"I worked for CNN," Sesno said, "but I watched the networks every night."

All of the evening news programs say they are profitable. It's difficult to isolate what is spent on each, since an evening news reporter could also file stories for other broadcasts. In NBC's case, they can file for sister networks MSNBC and CNBC.

Still, there's little question that networks could save money by filling the time slot with game shows or entertainment news instead.

Uproar

Many analysts say the uproar wouldn't be worth it.

"If you just try to get rid of it, it will make the Koppel thing look very tame," said Tom Wolzien, a media analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

The networks' corporate owners -- General Electric for NBC, Viacom for the CBS broadcasting network and the Walt Disney Co. for ABC -- all are big players in Washington who frequently seek beneficial legislation or Federal Communications Commission rulings. Eliminating the evening news would damage their arguments that TV networks serve the public interest, Wolzien said.

Two of the three anchors - Brokaw and Jennings - face big decisions about their futures with contracts expiring this year.

Although, Brokaw, at 62, is the youngest of the trio, he has mused loudest about leaving. He took most of last summer off, but was rejuvenated by the searing news events since then.

Opportunity

NBC's "Nightly News," which usually tops the ratings, would seem the healthiest of the three broadcasts. Brokaw would have the opportunity to leave while on top.

The ability and willingness of ABC to pay Jennings, 63, is being watched carefully. The network is struggling financially and the Koppel incident made many question Disney's commitment to news.

ABC, however, has seen the largest increase in viewership over the past year of the three shows. "World News Tonight" generally ranks second each week to NBC.

Rather, 70, is last in the ratings. But he's given no indication he's anxious to leave, and he arguably dominates his news division more than the others do.

Likely heirs apparent are in place at each network, though time and other job opportunities can always change that. The lead contenders are thought to be Brian Williams at NBC, John Roberts at CBS and Charles Gibson at ABC, although a shift to Gibson would open a hole at "Good Morning America." *AP*

Toffee transformed

ACTOR Toffee Calma has transformed himself into the professional he really wants to become.

The former model became popular when he took on sexy roles in sexy movies, but even then he was determined he would not be forever in a sexy mold.

"I was already two years in the business, I had established a name but I felt like I wasn't growing," he recalls. "Nothing was happening to me as an actor. So I decided to stop doing sexy movies and to start to reinvent myself. Fortunately, there came an offer for me to do theater. *Hindi na 'ko nagpakipot*. I knew it was the opportunity I was waiting for so I grabbed it."

In theater for almost five years now, Toffee has done more than 20 roles. He has also been a scholar of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for two years.

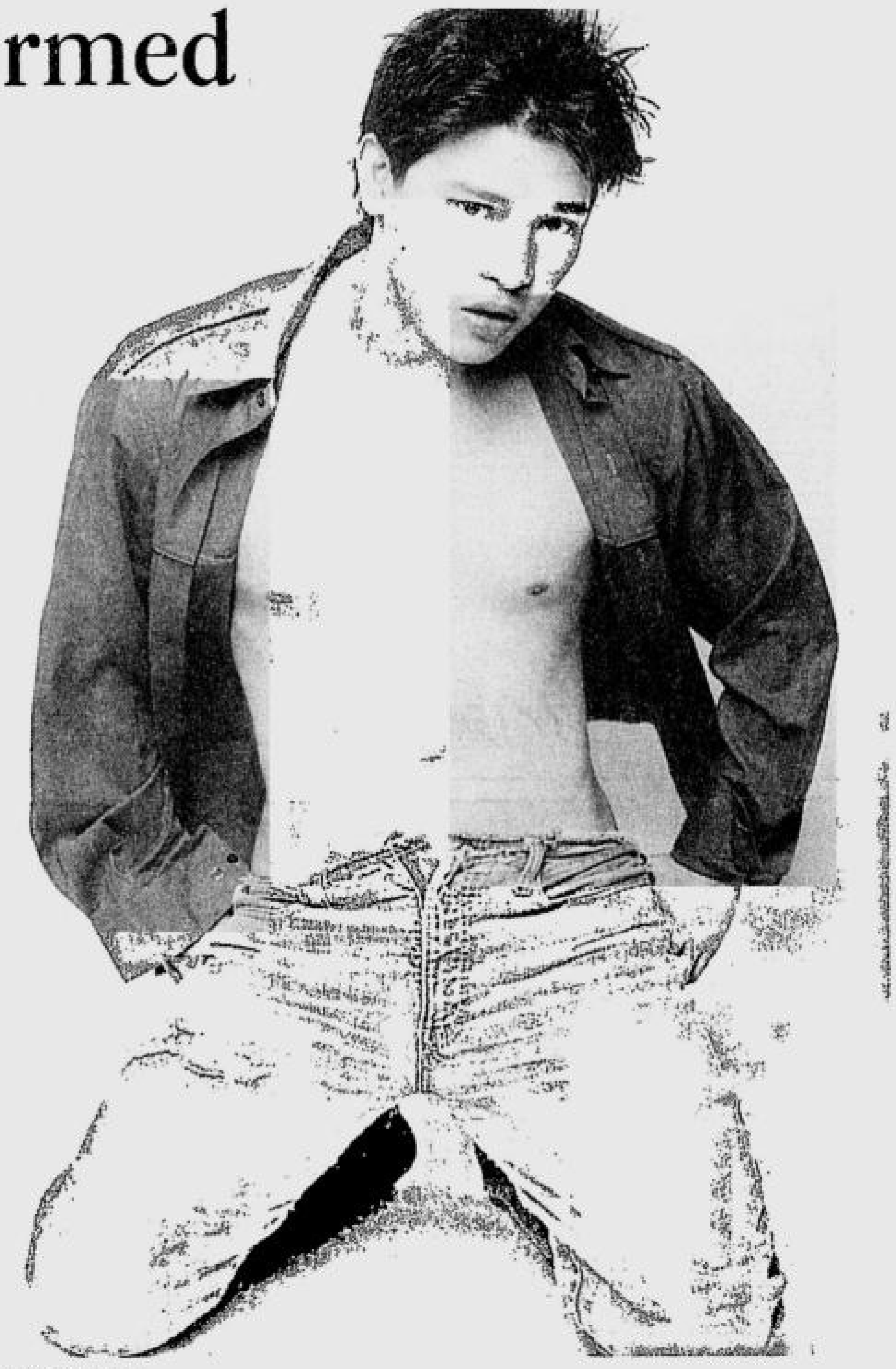
"I also get the chance to work with respected actors, which was not always the case in the movies," he says. "It's so fulfilling. Hard because of the demand for concentration, presence of mind, and those sleepless nights to memorize my dialogues, the blocking and everything. Hard but fulfilling.

"I feel satisfaction that I haven't felt in doing movies. I also want to prove that I am not only a sexy actor, that I can be a good actor and gain respect for it. *Kahit ikaw naman siguro*, when you learn that you're talking to a stage actor, you can't help but admire and respect him, *'di ba?*"

Toffee is starting to get not only admiration and respect for his theater work, but also notice in other fields. He recently started to endorse two products, a local cologne brand and a shirt line in Thailand. "You can see my posters in Thailand, they're so big," he gushes like a little boy talking about a toy.

"With the experience that I've had in theater, I know I can do even more," Toffee Calma declares.

Jenny Fatima, Contributor



CALMA chameleon

Pure and simple Brickman

By Emmanuel V. Papa
Contributor

"Simple Things"
Jim Brickman
BMG Records

REVIEW

SOMETIMES, listening to music can be a nerve-wracking journey of angst-filled lyrics, guitars that screech from start to finish, and the many sounds computers generate. Jim Brickman's latest album, "Simple Things," clears the mind of all the impurities, simply making one feel relaxed.

Brickman's seventh career effort takes the listener on a simple yet enchanting freewheel trip on a very soothing musical package. No primordial screams, no bloody cursing, no head-throbbing drums. Just a wonderful excursion into laid-back musical pleasure.

The album opens with a very simple, relaxing, distinctively-Brickman instrumental, "The Promise." In the next track, "Simple Things" (one of three songs with vocals), Brickman's piano works fuses magically with fresh country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard's sweet vocals.

Again, simplicity is the key to why this song works so well: the simple Brickman touch, simple yet true-to-heart lyrics laced with simple sweet pop beats.

The track "Catching Twilight" hypnotizes you into thinking of those afternoon soaps during the '80s. Yes, this track can melt stress away. But it can also take you on a subtle plunge into melancholy. That is why this piece is so good.

"Night Rain" begins with a fidgety trickle that somehow turns into a majestic splash of musical raindrops. One flaw: This instrumental deserves a longer duration. Six minutes maybe? Anyway, this is how rainy season should sound and feel like.

"Gate 41" reminds you a bit of Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating ng Panahon." Though it sounds amusing, a smooth medley could be created out of the two songs. Maybe a collaboration in the near future will not hurt.

"Waiting for You" effectively stirs loneliness, but it is certainly not depressing.

"Journey" puts the listener in a happy mode and then puts him back on a sentimental track in "Devotion," a perfect piece to accompany a marriage proposal. If the proposal is accepted, and when the girl is still wiping her tears of joy, the couple can play the next track, "One and Only," and dance.

One of my favorite tracks in the album is "Serenade." With its constant serving of urban beats garnished with simple piano wizardry, this track is reminiscent of sax man Paul Taylor. This track, too, should have been longer.

The two other tracks with vocals are "A Mother's Day" and the forgetful "It Must Be You," sung by the boy group All 4 One.

Overall, the album is a very satisfying listening experience, with pensive, moving and bouncy pieces. Sit down comfortably and let Brickman drive you on this smooth musical journey.

ABS-CBN still persecuting me, says Mel Tiangco

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IS ABS-CBN getting back at **Mel Tiangco** by not airing TV spots featuring her as endorser?

Although there is no written rule that the network should not accommodate Mel's TV commercials, ABS-CBN does not carry any ad with Mel.

"They're still persecuting me," says Mel. "I don't know why they don't want to air my TV ads."

In 1996, Mel slapped ABS-CBN with a multi-million-peso damage suit after the network suspended her for allegedly breaching the network policy on endorsing products. She signed a contract to endorse a detergent brand, despite an existing office memorandum banning all news and public affairs talents of the network from doing TV commercials.

When she and her broadcast partner, **Jay Sonza**, joined GMA 7 that same year, ABS-CBN filed a case against them and the rival network. But in July 1998, the court dismissed ABS-CBN's case and ruled in favor of Mel and Jay.

In April 1999, Mel also won her case against ABS-CBN, which was asked to pay her P11 million in damages.

Mel says she has been honest with the advertisers who want to get her as product endorser.

"I tell them right away that they can't air their TV ads on ABS-CBN," she says. "I don't want to shortchange them and make them find out about it only after I have signed the contract."

Mel does not just accept any product endorsement offer that comes her way. That's understandable for someone whose greatest asset in her broadcast and public service work is her name, reputation, integrity and credibility which she has painstakingly built all these years.

"I have to be selective," she explains. "I have to consider a lot of things when I endorse a product, including my advocacies. It's no longer a question of what's in for me but rather what's in for the people I serve."

Public service

Mel has been the executive director of GMA 7's public service arm, Bisig Bayan, since 1996. She was recently appointed officer in charge of GMA Foundation, the network's response to safeguarding human rights, upgrading the standards of education and reducing the effects of poverty.

She has entrenched herself in public service work throughout her broadcasting career not because she has a political ambition. She simply wants to serve.

"I started doing public service even when I was still on radio over dzXL," Mel shares. "There was this Mangyan tribe in Mindoro who approached us because they needed a school to help them learn to read and write. I worked on that and asked the help of the education department."

Mel was city-bred and a *colegiala* through and through who married at a young age and raised her four children. But she did not mind visiting the Mangyan tribe in the raw lands of Mindoro, a good 16 hours away from Manila.

"It became a catalyst for me," Mel says. "I became aware that there's really a lot of work to do for the people. It was also an eye-opener for me. I realized that if you have so much, you also have to give so much. And if you have the ability to help in any way, you have to do it."

When she joined ABS-CBN in 1986, Mel became a segment producer of "Lingkod Bayan" for "TV Patrol."

"I sat down and talked to people of all sorts, those with AIDS, drug addicts or schizophrenic," she recalls. "That became a very successful segment and we were able to help a lot of people."

A few yeas ago, she had a heart attack followed by two angioplasty treatments to clear her arteries. That prevents her from taking many out of town trips today.

No to politics

Her work as executive director of Bisig Bayan convinced Mel to accept the offer to endorse affordable generic medicines manufactured by Pharex Health Corp. Before signing up, she probed into Pharex's taglines of "product quality, efficacy and affordability." She even asked Pharex general manager **Beau Agana III** to bring her samples of medicines.

"Before, I was quite cynical about generics and with the countless generic companies," Mel admits. "For a long time, I've been telling the pharmaceutical firms to lower the prices of their medicines so more people can afford to buy. This project fulfills my professional commitment as a broadcaster."

For Pharex, it was Mel Tiangco or nobody. "We had to get somebody who is consistent with our corporate vision and image," explains Agana.

Credible

"We want someone who is credible not only as a broadcaster but also as a person, who reaches out to the needy and gives a part of herself through others. We found all that in Mel (Tiangco)."

Pharex has had other celebrity endorsers—**Aga Muhlach** for Potencee vitamins and **Donita Rose** for Betadine Feminine Wash.

Mel serves as a leading force for Bisig Bayan. Through her guidance and leadership, the team responds to the plight of the needy and seeks the help of generous donors. It conducts medical and dental missions in depressed areas and offers relief operations during calamities. When the MV Maria Carmela was hit by fire last week, Bisig Bayan was among the first organizations to respond to the call for help.

MEL Tiangco does not do public service in preparation for a political career.

"Barangays from as far as Mindanao write to us for help," Mel informs. "I am very fortunate to have used the strength of my name in asking for help.

"One time, I was in Bicol during a typhoon and I was able to request the NFA here to release millions of pesos through its provincial branch there. I just guaranteed them with a piece of paper that I would pay them back."

Mel stresses she does not do public service in preparation for a political career.

"I'm not interested in politics: Our people are so poor and they need somebody to help them.

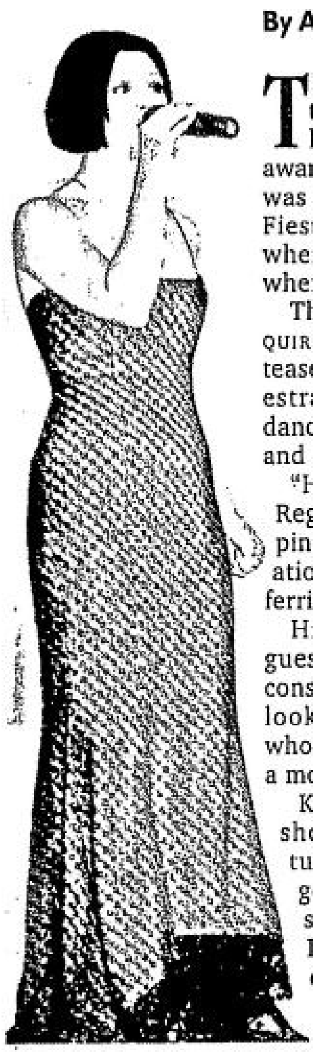
"I'd rather be the one to help. It makes you appreciate what you have and realize they are actually blessings from God. You have to give back what has been given to you."

BREATHLESS babes Angela Velez, Lana Asanin and Regine Tolentino

THREE GENERATIONS Gabby Eigenmann, Mark Gil, Eddie Mesa and Michael de Mesa

Short sweet show and absurd awards

By Alex Y. Vergara



SONGBIRD Regine Velasquez

THE JOKE was on Kris Aquino when estranged partner Phillip Salvador kissed her on the cheek during Saturday's Famas awards night. Kris, one of the evening's hosts, was seated in a corner of the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion while waiting for her cue when Phillip suddenly popped out of nowhere.

The irrepressible TV personality and INQUIRER Entertainment columnist earlier teased Lander Vera-Perez for staring at his estranged wife Regine Tolentino as she danced with fellow bombshells Lana Asanin and Angela Velez onstage.

"Have you seen how Lander looked at Regine?" Kris said to the audience in Filipino. "We'll probably be seeing a reconciliation very soon." She could have been referring to herself and Phillip.

His gesture caused quite a stir among guests as they wolfed down their dinner consisting mainly of chicken galantina. "It looks like Kris and Phillip are the ones who'll reconcile before the evening is over," a movie fan giggled.

Kris, as the title of her top-rating game show puts it, was quite game. She returned the gesture with a smile before going back to work. "We're friends," she said as we teased her about it. "Josh and I had dinner with him the other evening."

Phillip, who reportedly sulked for almost a year after losing in his vice mayoral bid for Mandaluyong, was obviously in high spirits that evening. We saw him table-hopping and greeting colleagues Maricel Soriano and stylist James Cooper like long-lost friends. He later sat with show biz couple Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama.

WINNERS Lorna Tolentino, Armando Goyena, Caridad Sanchez and Jiro Manio bask in their moment.

PHOTOS BY
DENNIS SABANGAN AND
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

NO FADING STAR. Armando Goyena wins his first Famas

Commercials

Speaking of couples, Lorna Tolentino arrived in the middle of the show in the arms of real-life *kasangga* Rudy Fernandez. A perky Snooky Serna arrived earlier with husband Ricardo Cepeda. We also caught veteran actress Celia Rodriguez in the company of a much younger man.

Celia, together with fellow veterans Perla Bautista, Bella Flores, Delia Razon and Robert Arevalo, was among the early birds. Unlike in previous years, they didn't have to brave Famas' notoriously extended shows.

Famas' 50th year awards night was mercifully short, sweet and, like in years past, full of in-house commercials. Organizers, riding high on the current game-show craze, asked televiewers to text their answers to certain trivia questions on Famas history. Those who get the most number of correct answers get to win a number of prizes, including a cruise to the South, courtesy, of course, of the show's long list of sponsors.

Even members of the press weren't spared. Souvenir programs, which reporters normally got for free, were sold to them for P100. Never mind if the souvenir programs have already paid for themselves because of numerous ads.

Specials

And true to Famas' penchant for making everybody happy, organizers handed out a slew of special awards, including the absurd title of "Glamorous Mom of the Night" to Melanie Marquez. Not that we found the former beauty queen dowdy, but wasn't the "Star of the Night" award given to Sunshine Cruz enough?

Sunshine came in a strapless corset with draped trimmings, long gloves and bustle by Eric Pineda. Melanie wore a red spaghetti-strapped décolleté with a hint of green appliques ***(Watch out for PDI Lifestyle's fashion review on Sunday)***.

And what's an award like "Face of the Night" for? Why, were the likes of Kris, Maricel, Lorna T and Pops Fernandez (to name a few) not as radiant and as flawless as recipient Regine T? Again, we're not belittling the comeback star's appearance, but such a laughable citation was an insult to every female star that bothered to show up.

And what about the men? Will Famas be giving a "Stud of the Night" award next year as well?

ACE comedian Dolphy

FATHER and daughter team Eddie and Ruffa Gutierrez.

TERRIFIC TRIO. Geneva Cruz, Sunshine Cruz and Assunta de Rossi lends their brand of glam.

DAZED. Rudy Fernandez escorts wife and Best Actress winner Lorna Tolentino as MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos congratulates them.

BE COUNTED! WHO LEADS? Jericho, Dingdong or Piolo?
ABS-CBN
Bravo!
2nd Anniversary Special
YOUR INSIDER GUIDE TO THE STARS
Over 100 never-before-heard facts!
And more thrillers!

COVER girl Judy Ann Santos bares her diet.

More than 100 star secrets in Star Studio 2nd anniversary issue

WHAT is the secret behind the svelte Judy Ann Santos?

Eat like a queen for breakfast, like a princess for lunch, like a pauper for dinner. What does she exactly mean?

The juicy details are all in the April 2002 issue of Star Studio Magazine, which chose the drama princess as cover girl for its special second anniversary issue.

Also inside this month's extra loaded show biz magazine are more than 100 never-before-heard facts about the brightest stars in local show biz.

Did you know that Pops Fernandez once threatened to write a tell-all book on her marriage to Martin Nievera?

And what's to stop you from flipping over to the page where Piolo Pascual also reveals his deep, dark secret?

Star Studio Magazine is published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SHOWTIME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HART'S WAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEEP END
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	RIPPER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	S2PID LUV
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	SHOWTIME
ODEON-2	RIPPER
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	HOT DOG
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	E.T.
CINEMA-8	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RIPPER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHOW TIME
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-14	HOT DOG THE MOVIE
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ICE AGE
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	RIPPER
CINEMA-6	DEEP END
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ICE AGE - GP 12:30, 2:15, 4:00, 5:45, 7:30, 9:20	SHOWTIME - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SNOW DOGS - GP 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30	RIPPER - R18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	DEEP END - R18 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30

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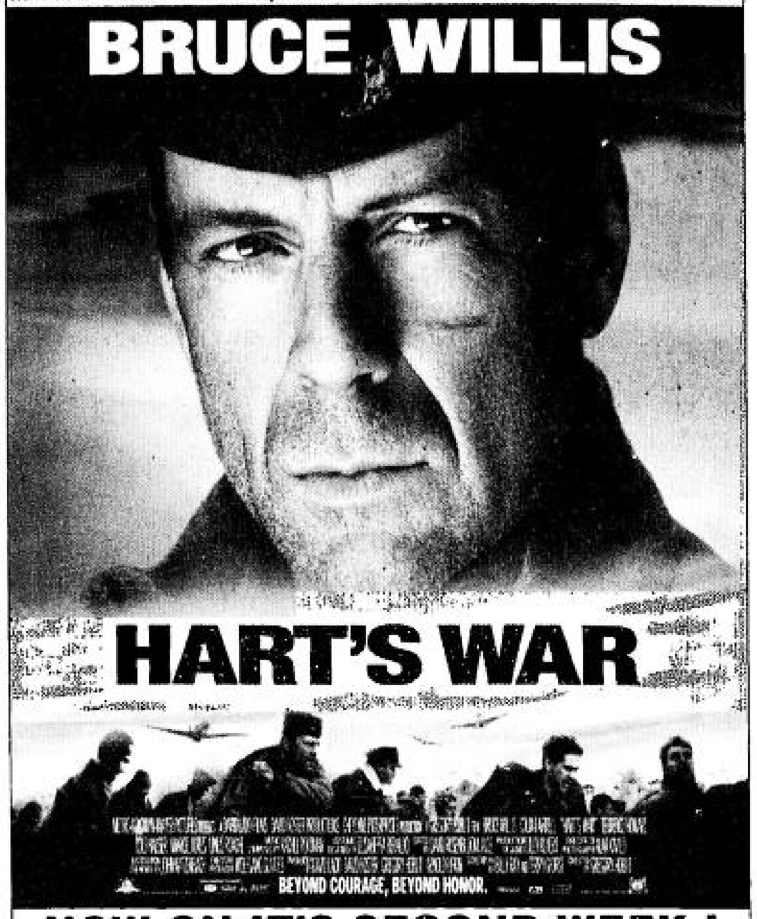

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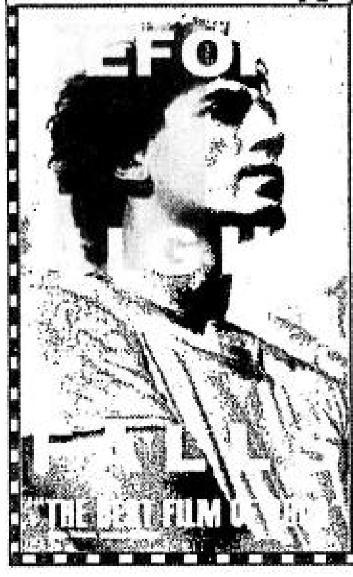

Javier Bardem Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn

"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview

WINNER!

Best Male Lead , 2001 Independent Spirit Awards
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor , 2000 Venice International Film Festival
Best Actor (Bardem), 2000 National Board of Review
Best Actor (Bardem), 2001 National Society of Film Critics

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

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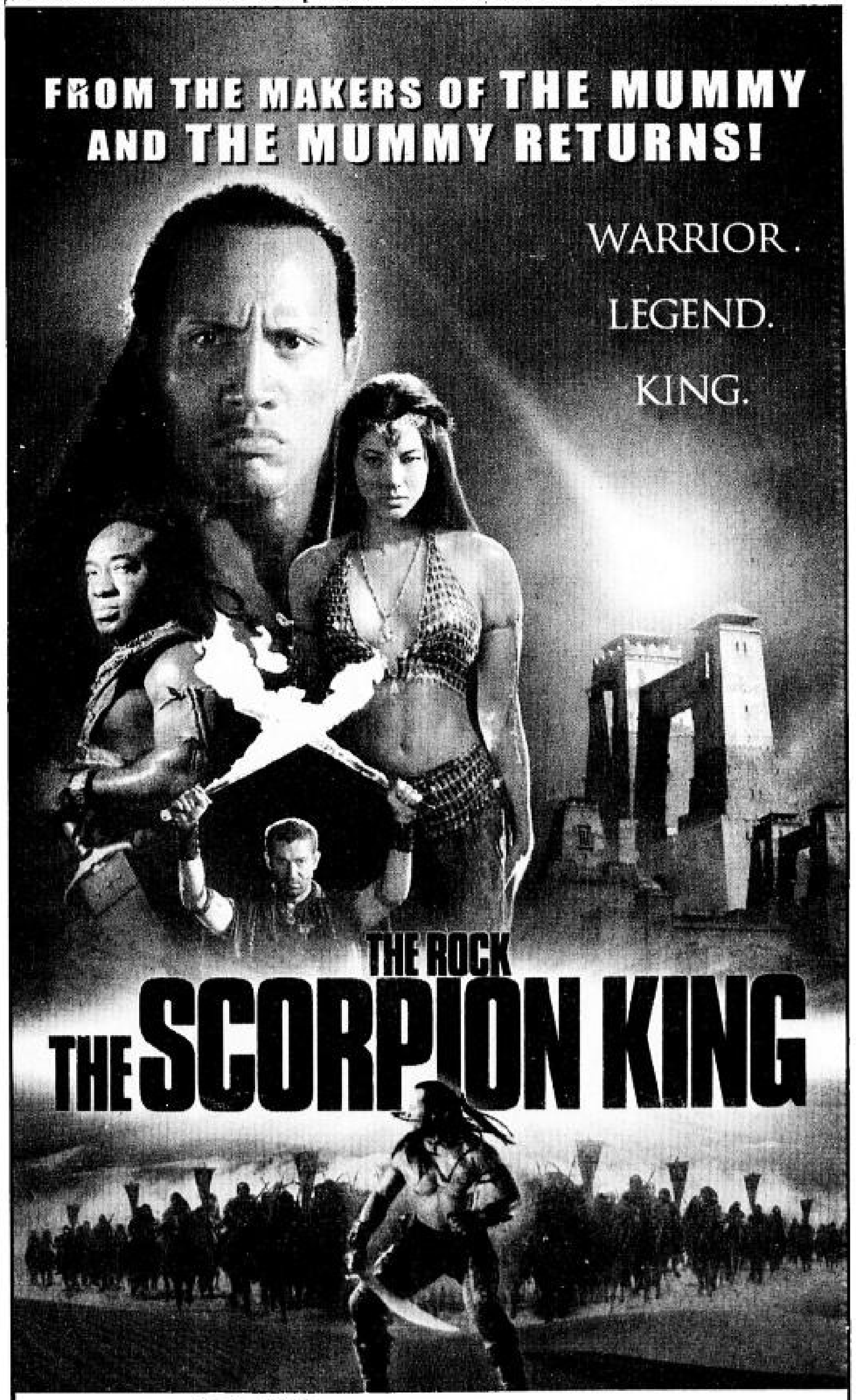
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

She's back

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

SOME years ago, "sweet" **Princess Punzalan** shocked televiewers when she transformed herself into a ferocious villainness in a TV soap opera. After that triumphant transformation, Princess cannily changed image again, and gave her *kontrabida* persona a good, long rest.

That's why, when she reappeared in her "evil mode" again last week on the new soap, "Kung Mawala Ka," Princess caused another sensation. If she had played one nasty character after another, viewers would have eventually gotten tired of her. But, after that long rest, the classy *kontrabida* she plays in her new soap is grabbing viewers where they live and breathe.

This time around, Princess' evil "emblem" is her hair—long, curly, like Medusa's hissing locks, perfect for a brilliant, scheming vixen who wishes ill on everyone. Unlike other actresses who think just playing themselves is exciting to their easy-to-please fans, Princess knows that uniqueness is everything—especially when you're acting in a soap, where depth and subtlety are not exactly of paramount importance.

Other actors, be very afraid about getting upstaged. She's back!

Secrets of the stars

SHOWBIZ luminaries are supposed to lead glossy, pluperfect lives, so they try to keep the messy, sordid stuff nicely tucked away from public view—and controversy. But some stars are not as coy as others, and candidly share some of the skeletons in their closets that other celebrities would blush to admit to:

Michael Douglas: I'm your basic flasher. I've always loved exposing myself.

Tina Turner: I've always been embarrassed about sex in some strange way. No one would ever think Tina Turner was shy. But I am shy about some things.

Jennifer Tilly: I've been attracted to every single person I've done a love scene with.

Cher: I've had erotic relationships with women when I was younger. Not a lot of them. It just wasn't something that kept my interest.

Sharon Stone: I've never had sex with a woman, but I've been on dates with a woman.

Susan Sarandon: If someone is very special to you, is it really that important if every now and then, he takes off and has a liaison with someone else? I mean, is it really so catastrophic?

Michelle Pfeiffer: Fidelity is possible. Anything is possible if you're stubborn and strong. But it's not that important. Traditional marriage is very outdated. I don't think people should live together the rest of their lives suppressing frustrations.

Dennis Rodman: People think I'm gay or bisexual.—Well, maybe I am.

Elton John: I didn't have sex until I was about 23. And then I didn't stop! Now, though, I'm very picket fence. I love promiscuity, but why should I sabotage my life? I never go to discos now. I'd feel like the Queen Mother if I went, I'm so old. I'd rather go to an antique show, or read a book.

Andy Warhol: I think I was 25 the first time I had sex. I stopped at 26.

Jack Lemmon: The only time my mother spoke to me about sex, she came in and sat on the edge of my bed as I was ready to go to sleep. I was around 13. She asked, "Do you ever play with your thing?" Lying, I said, "No, Why?" And she said, "Well, that's good, because it can make you crazy." That age-old bit! I didn't believe it. When she left the room, I told myself, "Oh, well, I'm going to go crazy—but I'm going to have a ball!"

Movies on HBO

PROMISING films on the HBO movie channel this month:

Wednesday, April 17 at 11 a.m., "The Out-of-Towners."

Thursday, April 18 at 10:30 a.m., "A Night at the Roxbury." At 4 p.m., "American Movie." At 9 p.m., "Final Destination." At 12:10 a.m., "Fast Times at Ridgement High."

Friday, April 19 at 10:30 p.m., "Sex and the City Special: Episode 40, "All or Nothing." 41, "Running with Scissors." 42, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Sunday, April 21 at 8 p.m., "Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles." Monday, April 22 at 1:15 p.m., "Any Given Sunday."

Saturday, April 27 at 9 p.m., "The Gift." Sunday, April 20 at 4:15 a.m., "Bicentennial Man."

LAUREL

Concert chronicles Cocoy Laurel's artistic journey

COCOY Laurel is back on the concert stage with a show, "Journeys of My Heart," April 26 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

"Miss Saigon" brought Cocoy to London in 1989. In the musical, he played the assistant commissar and later the engineer.

Cocoy stayed with the London cast of "Miss Saigon" for two years. His sterling performance caught the eye of producer Cameron Mackintosh, who asked him to open "Miss Saigon" in Australia where he played the engineer.

When Mackintosh introduced him to the Australian audience, the producer said he was happy that his dear friend Cocoy Laurel agreed to do the difficult and pivotal role of The Engineer.

"Miss Saigon" was a tremendous success that by the end of that year, Cocoy gave a total of 450 performances.

In a review written by Marjory Bent, the author said of Cocoy: "If anybody stole the show it was Cocoy Laurel as The Engineer, the hip-rolling sleazy pimp with the big roguish grin and a flashy Cadillac, was the high point in this Cameron Mackintosh production."

The Sydney Morning Herald wrote of Cocoy: "Cocoy Laurel is rich in subversive charm."

Cocoy made a big splash when in 1967 he was chosen "Romeo" in Paramount Pictures' search for the lead actor in line with the promotion of the Franco Zefirelli film "Romeo and Juliet."

Cocoy did a lot of movies and theater works after. He was leading man of superstar Nora Aunor in a number of movies, including "Lollipops and Roses." He was also cast in plays of Repertory Philippines like "Fantastiks" (which he did during a summer break from his studies in Madrid), "West Side Story," "Sweeny Todd," "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," "Guys and Dolls," "Evita" and "The Elephant Man."

Cocoy Laurel went to the Academia Real de Bellas Artes in Madrid where he studied portrait painting. He also enrolled at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Julliard School of Music in New York.

Cocoy was last seen in a concert at the Music Museum for the promo of his Spanish album, "Te Quiero."

"Journeys of My Heart" chronicles Cocoy's journey as an artist. Included in the repertoire are "Traveling Boy," songs from the Big band era like "Once Upon a Time," "So In Love" and "I've Never Been in Love Before," among others.

He will also do song numbers with The Madrigals and Powerdance.

"Journeys of My Heart" is directed by Douglas Nierras. Musical director is Ian Monsod. Leo Rialp is stage designer.

Regine in benefit show for abused children

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation presents the benefit concert, "One Night with Regine Velasquez," April 26 at the National Museum's scenic steps.

The concert also features the 85-piece San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 55-piece San Miguel Master Chorale, Bituin Escalante, Carol Banawa, Roselle Nava, RJ Rosales and Ogie Alcasid.

Proceeds of the show will go to the ABS-CBN Foundation's long-running Bantay-Bata 163 program.

The concert is Regine's first production for ABS-CBN. It is also the first time the National Museum has allowed a show to be held on its front steps, in an effort to build awareness for the new renovations of the museum, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The museum is also a concert beneficiary.

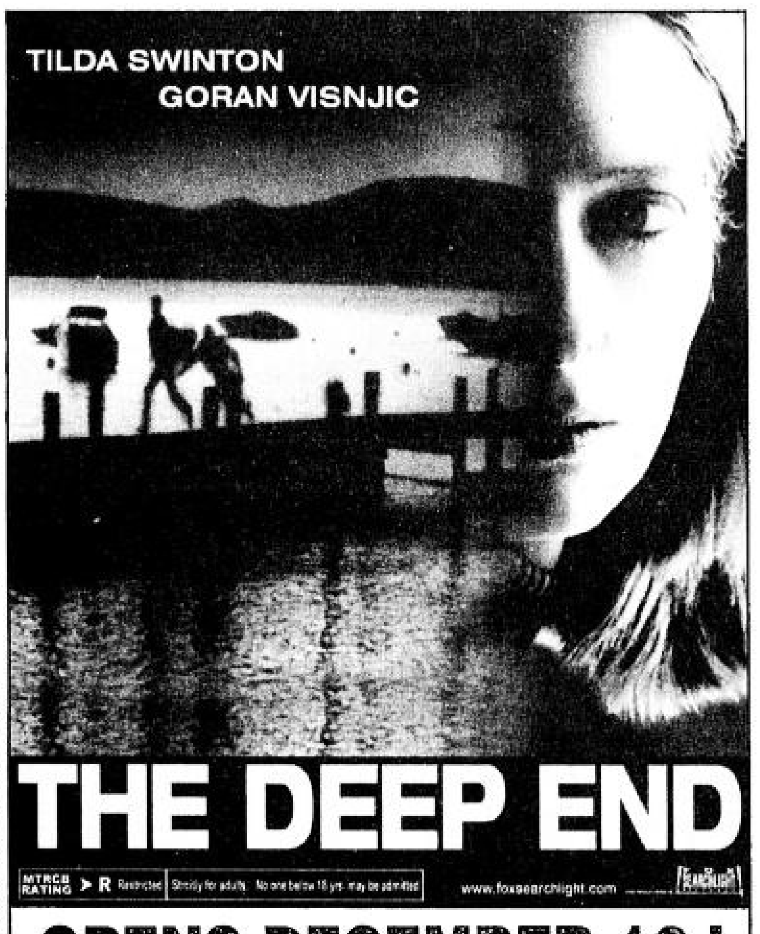
The open-air concert will feature a new repertoire especially selected for Regine and her first-ever collaboration with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale.

Musical director is Ryan Cayabyab. Over-all director is Johnny Manahan.

A multi-media talent, Regine has proven her mettle not only as a top recording artist and concert performer, but also as a star of blockbuster films and variety TV programs, a record producer, director for music videos and concerts. Her talent has allowed her to extend her fan based to the rest of Asia and even the United States.

For tickets, call Bantay Bata office at 411-0856 or 415-6625.

Tickets are available through SM Ticketnet at 911-5555.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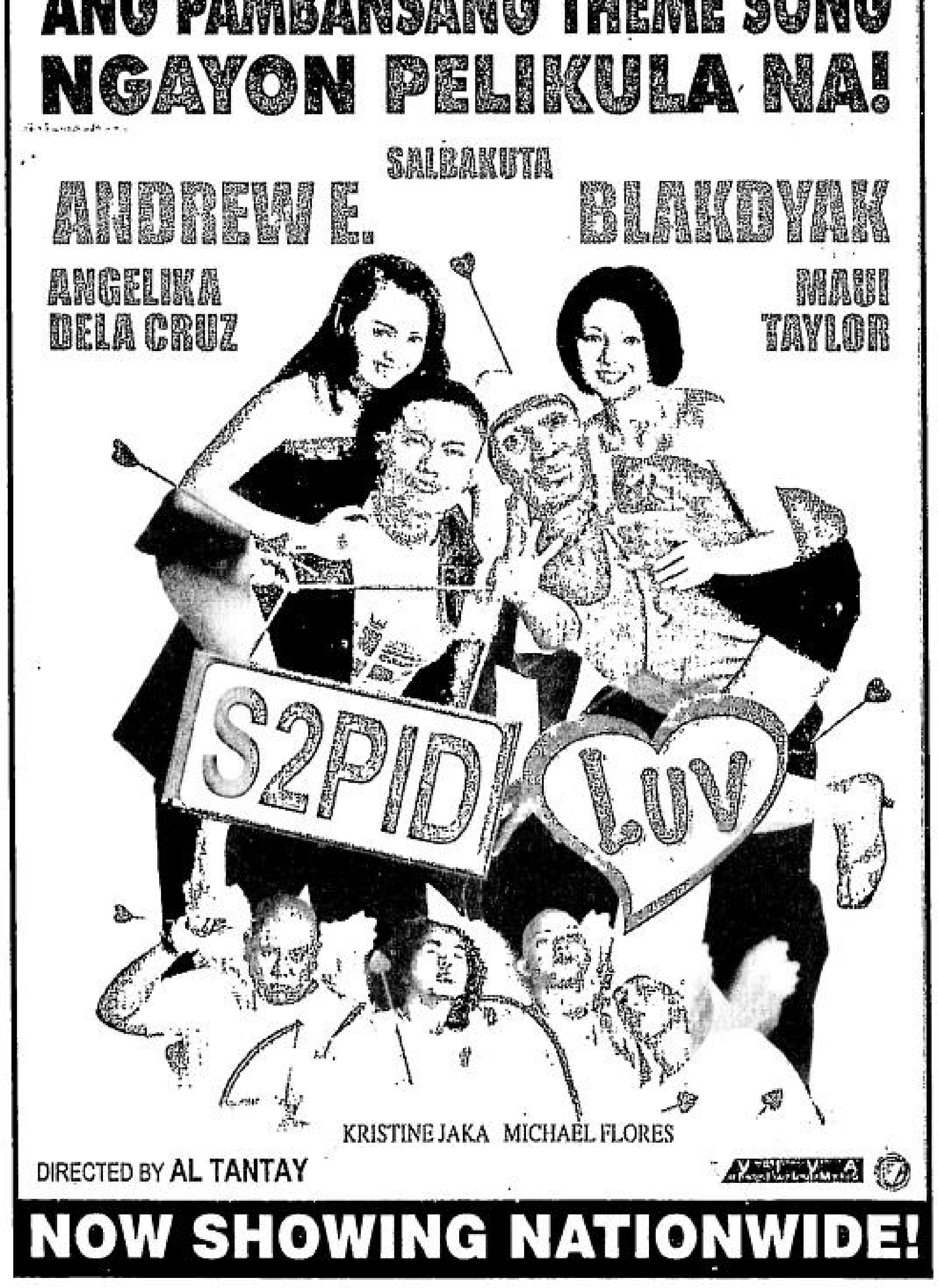

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GP

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SALONGA

Lea to come home for one-night show before playing'Drum'

LEA Salonga is coming home in June to perform in a repeat of her successful Broadway concert at the PICC. This time, the show will only be for one night, June 19.

It will be produced by Bayo, the clothing line which Lea has been endorsing for a year now.

Lea will return to New York soon after the concert and start rehearsals for "Flower Drum Song," which she will do on Broadway. She will reprise the role of Mei-Li, a young refugee from Communist China who struggles to hold on to traditional homeland beliefs when she lives in America.

The Broadway version of "Flower Drum Song" will open Oct. 17 but will have special previews as early as Sept. 23.

Lea will do "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway till August 2003 to make her eligible for another Tony nomination for best actress in a musical. She first won a Tony for "Miss Saigon" on Broadway in 1991.

After "Flower Drum Song," she will go on a US performance tour and bring her "Broadway" concert to different cities.

Lea won't be back in Manila till January 2004.

Leah Salterio

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Napocor loan requirements to hit $1.65B

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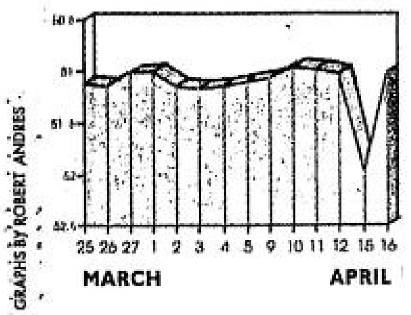
PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., April 16, 2002

¥131.60 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 16, 2002

GOLD: $299.20/299.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 16, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.2% lower

SHARE prices fell 0.2 percent yesterday amid a sell-off of certain blue-chips, though support for property stocks limited the overall decline, dealers said.

"There was follow through foreign selling on heavyweight issues led by PLDT and this prompted the market's drop," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

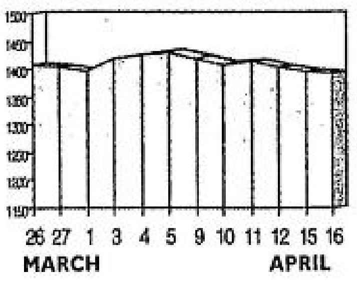
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gave up 3.11 points to close at 1,393.27.

Turnover rose to 380.84 million shares worth P475.37 million from 361.07 million shares worth P350.54 million traded on Monday.

Dealers said the low ratings by Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service on PLDT's $350-million US bond offer raised concerns on pricing.

AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN borrowings of the state-owned National Power Corp. are expected to hit $1.65 billion this year after the electricity firm failed to take into account additional obligations and new projects it needed to finance.

Napocor had placed its foreign debt requirement this year at $1 billion, a level it had revised weeks ago to $1.5 billion or at par with the requirements of the national government.

A government source said the Department of Finance was trying to convince Napocor to be "on the safe side" and raise about $1.65 billion instead of capping the dollar requirement this year at $1.5 billion.

Napocor has so far raised $750 million from the long-term global bond market through the national government.

The state-run power firm is asking the Asian Development Bank to guarantee a portion of the $750 million in foreign loans it said it needed to raise to complete a $1.5-billion requirement for 2002.

A government source said the power firm's higher dollar requirement this year went up after the ADB had canceled a $600-million loan to finance Napocor's Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project.

But the canceled ADB loan plus some other obligations including millions of pesos to be paid for electricity generated by a Lopez-owned power firm under a take-or-pay arrangement had bloated Napocor's requirements this year from an original estimate of only $1 billion, the source explained.

The national government needed only to raise $65 million for the rest of the year and the flexibility would allow it to assist Napocor in raising funds.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government has no plans yet to go back to the dollar debt market for funds. He also said it would be too early and "too costly" to borrow now the requirement for 2003.

"We do not want to incur too much negative carry," he said.

A government source said that Napocor would try to borrow funds directly in the coming weeks although the market doubted whether the power firm could negotiate reasonable rates.

Napocor had withdrawn a $400-$500 million, 7-year bond issue in early February after investors sought a return that would be almost a percentage point higher than the national government's borrowing rate.

"If it makes economic sense and if a direct Napocor borrowing would be substantially more expensive, the government would consider borrowing for them (an amount) sufficient for their requirements," Camacho said in an earlier interview.

Napocor is planning to sell to a private firm the rights to operate its transmission lines during the second half of the year. The government is estimated to gain between $1.5 billion and $1.8 billion from the privatization of the transmission operations.

The power firm would also sell several electricity-generating assets at an estimated value of $3 billion.

Shell says stock offer not likely this year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. said an initial public offering was not possible within the year primarily because of time constraints.

Pilipinas Shell country chair Eliseo Santiago said in an interview Monday night that the domestic oil refiner was busy with the matter of its valuation.

"We are now consulting with our adviser Salomon Smith Barney and this may take at least a month to tackle," Santiago said.

He said that after the valuation was settled, Pilipinas Shell would have to prepare many documents and that would also take time.

"An IPO in the third quarter is too tight," he said. "We have to do this very carefully and get it right the first time."

Santiago added that Salomon Smith Barney also advised not to do an IPO at the end of the year because the market was usually down at that time.

Asked whether Pilipinas Shell could list in the exchange early next year, he said: "I don't want to give you a date only to take it back later, this is a matter of right timing."

A wrongly timed public listing would have negative results rather than a hoped for improvement in the market, he reiterated.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., meanwhile, said that his department was continually urging Pilipinas Shell to do the IPO.

Perez had said earlier that Shell could do an IPO by year's end considering it was back to profitability. It posted a net income of P2.7 billion in 2001.

"I feel that if the recovery of Shell were to continue this year, an IPO no later than the last quarter of this year is feasible," he said.

Shell had indicated moves to give last year's financial turnaround a follow through.

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DOJ seeks review of Tadeco deal

Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Justice (DOJ) is pushing for a review of the contract between the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol) and the Tagum Agricultural and Development Company (Tadeco) on the latter's use of the penal property.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the review of the contract was important to determine whether the government was being paid properly.

The growth of the abaca industry in the 1960s prompted Dapecol to enter into a production agreement with Tadeco, which is owned by the family of Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo. Under the agreement, Dapecol grew abaca and Tadeco processed the raw hemp for a fee.

Dapecol was established in January 1932 in Panabo, which was then part of the undivided Davao province, by then Bureau of Prisons director Paulino Santos. This was to promote and develop agriculture and industry in penal colonies for the purpose of reeducating and rehabilitating the inmates.

Dapecol then has a total land area of 28,816 hectares, but much of it was distributed under the government's land reform program.

Among the beneficiaries were settlers, lumads and parolees, who were hoping to start a better life.

Today, Dapecol has only 5,212 ha to administer, house and rehabilitate its more than 2,000 inmates.

As the abaca economy slowed down in the 1970s and cavendish banana was becoming a major export product, Tadeco entered into a joint venture agreement with the government to develop the swamps around the penal colony into banana production areas.

The agreement provided that the government would receive guaranteed earnings plus shares in the production. At that time, lease rentals were between P100 and P175 per ha. Tadeco paid the government P250 per ha.

Banks' dollar loans down 11% to $5.56B

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR loans from the banking system's foreign currency deposit units dropped by 11 percent to $5.56 billion last year from the previous year's $6.25 billion, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the 15-percent contraction in exports last year clipped the dollar borrowings of export-oriented industries. Exporters, who account for a substantial portion of the FCDU loan portfolio, tap this facility for operating capital and importation of raw materials.

Some avoided tapping dollar-denominated loans while others even converted their dollar loans to pesos to minimize foreign exchange risks.

"Many banks were still reluctant to book new exposures years after the Asian financial crisis," said the BSP chief.

The BSP noted that dollar loans in the fourth quarter were also lower than the third quarter figures due to a net repayment of $176 million and $58 million in audit adjustment.

With the lower dollar loans, the loans-to-deposit ratio of the banking system's FCDUs dropped to 41.8 percent in the fourth quarter from a ratio of 43.3 percent during the third quarter.

Bank analysts said that as the peso weakened in the third quarter last year, borrowers avoided tapping the banks' FCDUs.

The peso was volatile from June to August last year as speculators used the excess funds in the system to buy dollars. In July, the local currency hit 54.335 to a dollar, the lowest under the Macapagal administration.

Exporters continued to account for the largest chunk of the loan portfolio with a 29-percent share followed by public utilities, 24 percent and oil companies, 8 percent.

Buenaventura noted that medium and long-term accounts represented 62 percent of the total FCDU loans at $3.456 billion while those maturing in the next 12 months stood at $2.103 billion or 38 percent.

US agrees to review plea for zero duty on RP tuna

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WASHINGTON has agreed to review the Philippines' request for zero duty on its canned tuna exports to the United States under an arrangement similar to what the US was contemplating on granting canned tuna makers in South American countries along the Andes Mountain range.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the US government had received the Philippines' request positively and that it had agreed to review alternatives to address these issues through either legislative or executive action.

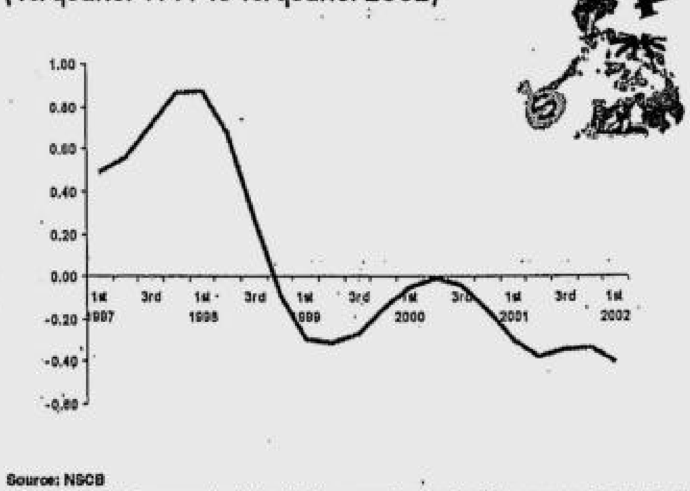
During his meeting with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick during the Asean Senior Ministers meeting in Bangkok early this month, Roxas said he had pressed the country's bid for increased tuna access and expressed apprehensions over the Andean preferential trade pact.

Roxas said the Philippines would use the government's all-out support to President George W. Bush's global war on terrorism as leverage to gain the same perks being planned for Andean countries. Roxas said the Philippines was drawing up a databank of communities that were dependent on tuna as their main source of income.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Leading economic index
(1st quarter 1997 to 1st quarter 2002)



Source: NSCB

THE LEADING economic index(LEI), computed using 11 seasonally adjusted indicators, provides advance information on the direction of the country's economic performance in the short run. For the first quarter of 2002, LEI dipped to -0.404 from -0.335 in the fourth quarter of 2001. Of the 11 indicators, only three, namely, consumer price index, tourist arrivals and number of new business incorporations contributed positively to the index. Other indicators are money supply, wholesale price index, stock price index, hotel occupancy rate, terms of trade, imports, energy consumption and exchange rate.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

US investors to visit RP

A MAJOR US business mission is visiting the Philippines on April 21-25.

The highlight of the mission's stay in Manila is the signing of a joint US-Philippine Business Cooperation Framework.

The upcoming visit was announced in Washington by Philippine Ambassador to the US Alberto del Rosario and Ernest Z. Bower, president of the US-Asean Business Council.

The business framework, which has been developed in cooperation with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic officials, includes cooperative activities and joint efforts in five business sectors: trade and investment; the Philippines as a regional hub; human resources in e-commerce; energy resources development; and agricultural productivity.

Del Rosario will fly back to the Philippines to accompany the business mission, which will call on Ms Macapagal and her Cabinet, leaders of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, and Philippine private sector leaders.

The mission will also visit Cebu, and meet with regional governors and business leaders from the southern Philippines.

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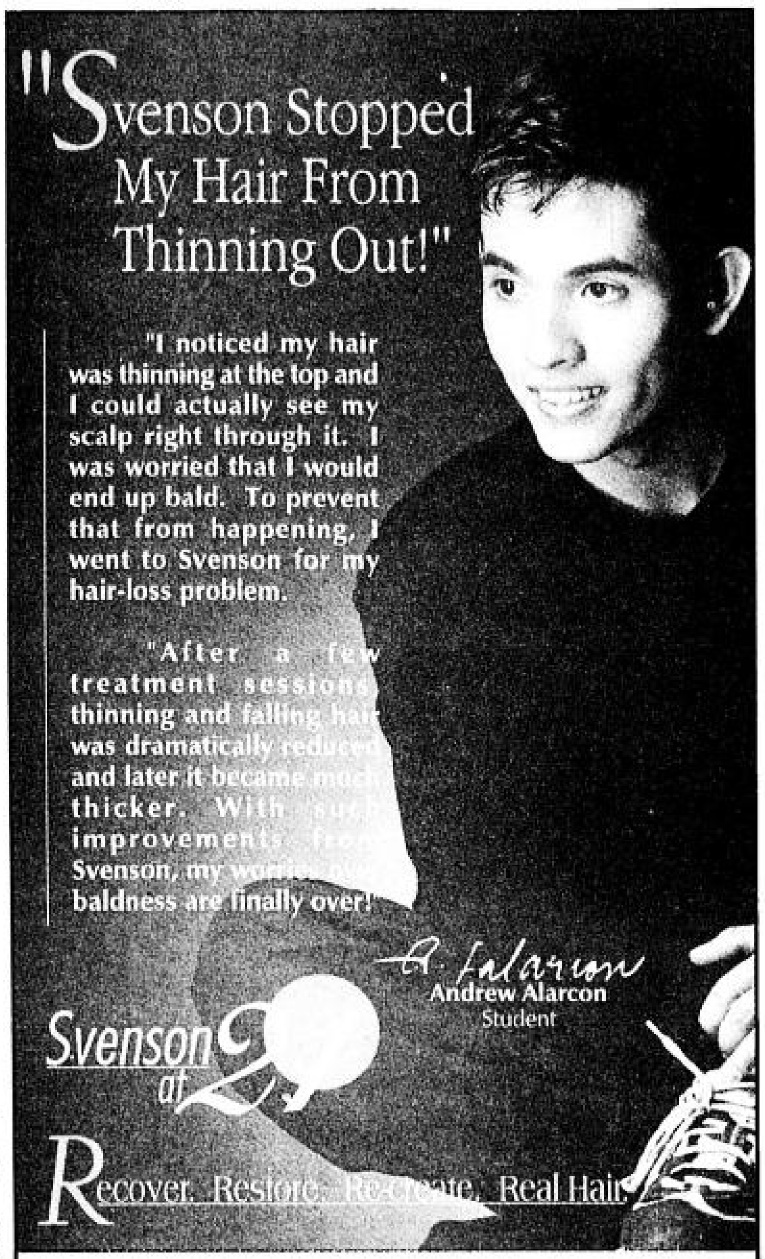

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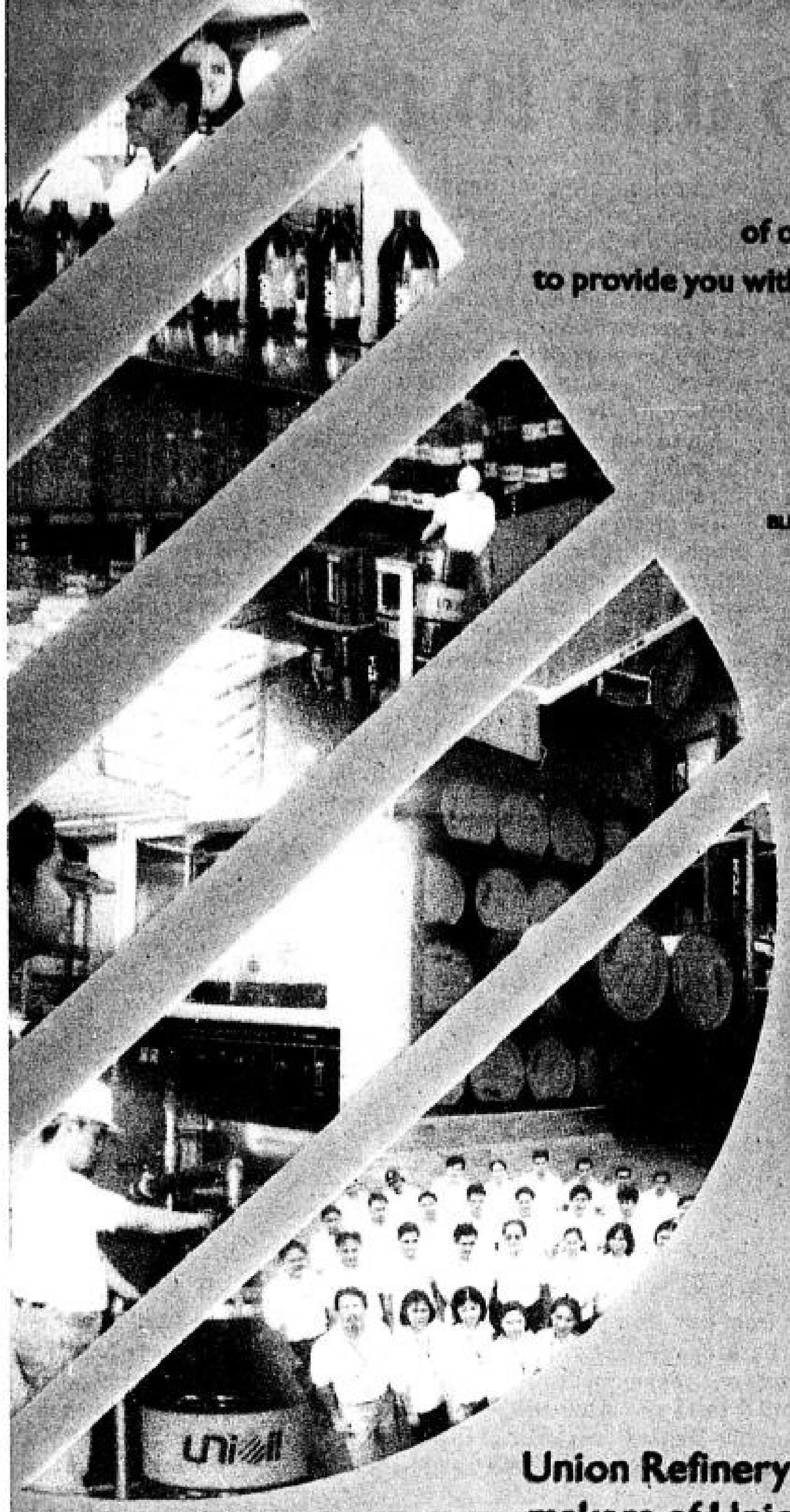

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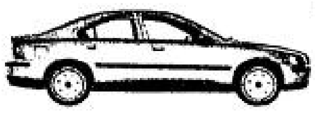

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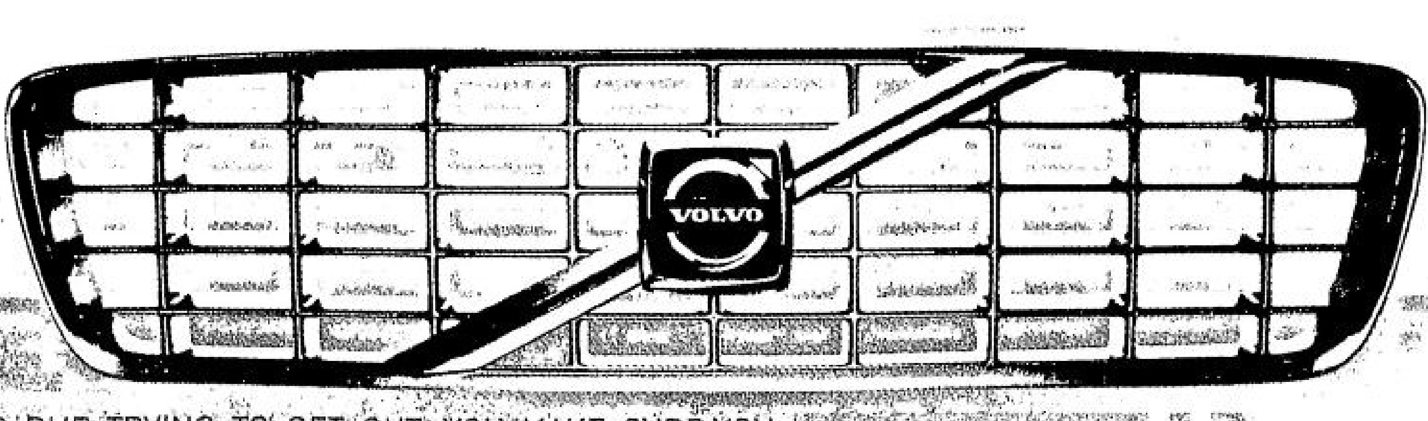

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Gov't defers sale of 10% stake in Meralco due to rates hike tiff

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday the government was deferring the sale of its 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. pending a decision on the utility firm's petition for a rate increase.

"It is difficult to sell the shares at the moment because the stock price may not be the intrinsic value of the company pending its rate adjustment," Camacho said in an interview.

Two months ago, Meralco's "A" shares, which are reserved exclusively for Filipino investors, were trading at around P32.50 each, while its "B" shares, which are open to foreigners, were at P51 each.

Yesterday, Meralco's "A" shares stood at P29.50, while its "B" shares were at P46.50 each.

Meralco has been asking the Energy Regulatory Commission to allow it to raise its rates by 10.6 percent.

In a revised petition it submitted on April 2, Meralco sought permission to raise its rates for consumers using 100 kilowatt-hours a month to P624.50 from their current bill of P564.86. Customers using 200 kwh will pay 12.2 percent more and those using 300 kwh, 12.8 percent more.

Meralco's application for a rate increase has met stiff opposition from political groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Bayan claimed Meralco was "hoodwinking" the public when it offered to reduce the rate increase it was seeking.

The group said based on Meralco's revised proposal, the average increase in the basic charge for residents consuming 1,000 kwh and below would actually be 133.6 percent.

The finance department is hoping that the issue will be settled in Meralco's favor, as it will allow the government to get a better price for its stake in the company.

In February, Camacho said he was optimistic that the government would finally be able to divest its remaining stake in the country's largest electricity distributor because of improving stock prices.

He said the value of the government's shares in Meralco last year was worth about P9 billion.

This year, the government is targeting to raise some P5 billion in revenue from the sale of its assets. It only sold P1.1 billion worth of assets last year, well short of its target of P10 billion.

The government is selling some of its assets to trim its budget deficit, which is estimated to hit P130 billion this year from P147 billion last year.

The national government owns a little over 7 percent in Meralco.

Meralco serves more than 3.1 million customers in Metro Manila and in nearby provinces.

It is controlled by the Lopez family through subsidiaries that include First Philippine Holdings Corp., Benpres Holdings and the Lopez Foundation.

Benpres net loss hits ₱10B

By Elena R. Torrijos

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the beleaguered flagship holding company of the Lopez family, reported a net loss of P10.25 billion last year or nearly 30 times its restated net loss of P354 million the previous year.

In a statement, Benpres said that the loss was mainly because it "set up a provision for the decline in the value of its investments in and advances to Bayantel (a subsidiary), including recognition of its liability that may arise from its guarantee commitments in Bayantel totaling P9.9 billion in 2001."

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. is in the process of restructuring its debts with creditors.

Following the large net loss, Benpres' stockholders' equity declined to ₱15.069 billion as of end-2001 from P25.613 billion the previous year.

SM, PSE SIGN AGREEMENT
Henry Sy Sr. (fourth from left, seated), chair of Highlands Prime, signed on April 5 a purchase agreement with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) for the initial public offering of the property firm. The agreement represents the PSE traders' commitment to purchase Highlands Prime's IPO shares, which will be offered to the general public on April 9 to 15 and listed on the PSE on April 23. Among those present during the signing were (seated, from left) Antonio Henson, president of Highlands Prime; Willy Ocier, vice chair of Belle Corp.; Ma. Vivian Yuchengco, PSE chair; Ernest Leung, PSE president; Rogelio Cabunag, officer in charge of Belle Corp.

US call center to put up facility in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ONE of the world's leading call center providers, Stream International, has expressed keen interest in establishing its presence in the country, which should further cement the Philippines' reputation as an e-Services hub in the region.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said officials of Stream were in the country recently to look at potential sites for its planned call center facility.

Roxas said Stream's interest in the country merely validated the growing reputation of the country as an ideal site for call center operations especially with a large pool of English-speaking workers and the much improved telecommunication facilities. The government has earmarked fiscal perks to call center operators in the country as well as encouraged the development of information technology parks.

Stream employs between 10,000 and 15,000 employees in 22 locations over 10 countries, serving over 40 million customers yearly. Stream's core clients are big computer players including Microsoft.

Stream was the result of a merger between Corporate Software and commercial printer RR Donelley & Son's Global Software Services unit, Solectron.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has emerged as the choice partner of call center operators in the country. Its Internet arm, e-PLDT, signed two separate contracts with Teletech Holdings Inc. and Echostar Communications Corp. to provide call center services from the Philippines.

Teletech is a leading provider of integrated customer relationship management (CRM) services and solutions for global organizations mainly in communication, financial services, and government and transportation industries. The company has operations in US, UK, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, and Spain. E-PLDT will establish an 800-seat call center to support Teletech's overseas operations.

The Colorado-based Echostar is one of the leading providers of multichannel video digital programming and data services in North America. Its Direct Broadcast Satellite television products and services through its Dish Network which has over 6 million customers. E-PLDT is expected to put up a 500-seat call center that will work in three shifts to serve Echostar's requirements.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of April 17, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	1,700,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,600,000	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	90,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	280,000
Canlubang	-	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	110,000	130,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	195,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	260,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	265,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,500,000	12,000,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	640,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	660,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Montemar (Corp)	60,000	
Mt. Malarayat	-	360,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	220,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	80,000	130,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	840,000	880,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,900,000	7,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
[illegible]	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
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Fil-Estate trading suspension lifted

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday lifted the suspension on the trading of Fil-Estate Land Inc.'s shares after the property firm finally submitted its financial report for 2001 that indicated a 59-percent drop in net profit.

Despite a 45-percent increase in consolidated revenues, Fil-Estate disclosed that its net income stood at only P25.08 million for the fiscal year ending September 2001, compared with the P60.87 million in the same period in 2000.

In a statement issued on Monday, company chief financial officer Roberto Roco said "this (profit decline) is because income from sales of residential lots and golf shares are not immediately realized considering that most sales are through installment."

The PSE suspended the trading of Fil-Invest shares on Monday due to its failure to submit on time copies of its annual report for fiscal year 2001 and to pay the basic and daily fines imposed for the delay.

Fil-Estate reported an increase in total revenues of 45 percent to P1.78 billion, which the company attributed to the improved social and political conditions that jacked up sales of real estate, resort and golf club shares by 90 percent.

DISCLOSURES

BANCO Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank declared an 11-percent stock dividend that will also serve as additional subscription to the required minimum subscription of at least 25-percent of the P3-billion increase in its authorized capital stock.

* * *

UEM Development Philippines Inc. said it would not hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 20 until the transfer of shares of stock from **United Engineers (Malaysia) Berhad** and **Malayco Inc.** to **Coastal Road Corp.** has been completed.

* * *

STOCKHOLDERS of **Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.** approved the change in the company's name to **ISM Communications Corp.** Also, the company will declassify its "A" and "B" shares into one class of common share.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.** were Ramon del Rosario, Oscar Hilado, Antonio del Rosario, Magdaleno Albarracin Jr., Alfredo Velayo, Raymundo Feliciano, Reynaldo Paulino, Ramon del Rosario Jr., Francisco Viray, Ricardo Camua and Epifania Godinez.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. signed a memorandum of understanding with **Micros-Fidelio Software Inc.** for the possible bundling of the two companies' services for hotels, leisure clubs, resorts and hospitals. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

L&MMAXCO

L&M-MAXCO Company, Inc. one of the leading construction firms included in the Top 500 Corporations of the Philippines, with "AAA" license category and global network of offices in the Far East, South East Asia and the Pacific Region.

INVITES QUALIFIED SUPPLIERS ON THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY

1. Concrete Mix
2. Cement
3. Gravel & Sand
4. Structural Reinforcing Bars
5. Lumber
6. Electrical Supplies
7. Mechanical & Plumbing Supplies
8. Hardware Supplies
9. Tiles (All Types)
10. Architectural (Finishes) Supplies
11. Finishing Wood Works Supplies
12. Aluminum and Glazing Supplies
13. Structural Steel Supplies
14. Other Construction Materials

Interested suppliers shall submit their duly accomplished prequalification documents and list of product lines to the following officer and location:

Attention: ENGR. TING G. ANGELES, Contracts/Purchasing Officer
THE CONTRACTS/PURCHASING DEPARTMENTS
5th Floor Fortune Office Building
160 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 891-3653 to 56, Fax No. 891-3658

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, April 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68	68	68	440,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	42	41.5	42	150,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	42	42	41	41.5	188,300
Philippine National Bank	56	56.5	56	56	16,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.5	12,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	110,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.45	0.39	0.45	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1400	1405	1400	1405	2,060
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1095	1100	1095	1100	1,330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34.5	33.5	34.5	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.62	0.62	2,280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	790	805	790	800	5,160
Ipeople Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	140,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.046	0.046	6,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	110,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	1,190,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	540	540	505	510	118,750
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.02	0.018	0.019	76,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	41,900
Manila Electric Co. B	47.5	47.5	46.5	46.5	574,200
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.68	8,495,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	2,045,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	1,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	669,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	81,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	77,100
RFM Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	616,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	48	181,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61.5	61.5	708,100
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,046,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	505,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	530,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	85,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.63	0.64	27,630,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.3	32,190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.235	0.235	2,150,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.8	31,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.34	955,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30	94,600
Ionics Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	3,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	950,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	530,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	1,720,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	8,240,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	310,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	630,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	490,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	14,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.56	0.57	7,280,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	150,000
Manila Jockey Club	12	12	12	12	5,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.36	40,000
Philippine Racing Club	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	34	34	34	34	5,100
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	770	770	770	770	5,200
Equitable Pci Bank-War	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	83,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	3,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	71,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.3	7	7.3	5,281,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	4,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,170,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	3,860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,940,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	5,048,000
City & Land Developers	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	6,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	20,852,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.047	0.047	0.043	0.043	43,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	510,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	890,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	230,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	400,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	180,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	5,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	240,000

CURRENCIES

Apr-16-2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.136880	1.000000	50.9850
Japan	Yen	0.008614	0.007577	0.3863
United Kingdom	Pound	1.635175	1.438300	73.3317
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145763	0.128213	6.5369
Switzerland	Franc	0.681502	0.599449	30.5629
Canada	Dollar	0.716596	0.630318	32.1368
Singapore	Dollar	0.619486	0.544900	27.7817
Australia	Dollar	0.604081	0.531350	27.0909
Bahrain	Dinar	3.015758	2.652661	135.2459
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303176	0.266674	13.5964
Brunei	Dollar	0.617467	0.543124	27.6912
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000107	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.026165	0.023015	1.1734
UAE	Dirham	0.309566	0.272294	13.8829
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000759	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.879600	44.8464
Brazil	Real	0.490457	0.431406	21.9952
Denmark	Kroner	0.134534	0.118336	6.0334
India	Rupee	0.023269	0.020467	1.0435
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.299179	0.263158	13.4171
Mexico	New Peso	0.124033	0.109099	5.5624
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499442	0.439309	22.3982
Norway	Kronor	0.131173	0.115380	5.8826
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018979	0.016694	0.8511
South Africa	Rand	0.101871	0.089606	4.5686
Sweden	Kroner	0.109810	0.096589	4.9246
Syria	Pound	0.025838	0.022727	1.1587
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032585	0.028662	1.4613
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001337	0.001176	0.0600

Shell . . .

From page B1

Shell officials have said the firm's performance in 2001 indicated strength while maintaining that an IPO was mainly an issue of right timing.

They noted significant gains in fuel management services and closer customer relationship, especially quality accounts.

As a result, Shell's bottom line improved significantly compared to its poor performance in 2000 when it suffered a net loss of P1.1 billion.

A stronger SGV

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

INSTEAD of imploding like Arthur Andersen, it looks like SGV will emerge bigger and stronger from the document-shredding/creative accounting scandal now roiling its American partner.

No less than the chief executive officer of Ernst & Young International, William Kimsey, is flying in today from New York to "persuade" its local partner, Punongbayan and Araullo, to agree to a merger with SGV, according to the grapevine.

Punongbayan and Araullo has been resisting the merger move since the surviving firm, should the merger push through, would be SGV, with Benjamin Punongbayan and Jose Araullo being accorded post-merger honorific titles prior to their well-deserved retirement.

The proposed merger is a particularly bitter pill for Punongbayan, according to the grapevine, since Punongbayan left SGV in a huff after SGV founder Washington SyCip instead anointed Gloria Tan Climaco as SGV chair.

(Climaco was herself ousted later by the SGV partners, but that is another story.)

In leaving SGV, Punongbayan brought with him a number of officers and staff, who now face the prospects of being treated as prodigal sons should Punongbayan and Araullo be swallowed by SGV.

Apparently, Punongbayan and Araullo are caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. Ernst & Young, according to the grapevine, is threatening to ditch its local partner and bring the multinational clients to SGV should Punongbayan and Araullo vote against merging with the competition.

SGV, for its part, has consigned its partnership with Arthur Andersen to a literal dark past. The Arthur Andersen signage on top of the SGV building on Ayala Avenue has been unlighted for weeks now, with no less than SGV chair Cesar Purisima giving the lights-off order.

Despite the parachuting of the Ernst & Young's CEO, SGV's taking on dark horse Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as foreign partner is not to be ruled out. Not just yet.

We understand that Conchita Manabat, upon instructions of her foreign partner Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, met with the SGV principals yesterday afternoon, precisely to see if marriage between the two locals is possible.

Manabat has the edge over Punongbayan and Araullo as far as absence of professional baggage is concerned, since she never worked for SGV.

The mischievous among the numbers-crunchers also note that Manabat and SGV chair Purisima should make a good fit. Purisima is still a bachelor, while Manabat, according to the scuttlebutt, counts a 1984 hit of Madonna as one favorite song.

Alcordo's alibi

JESUS Alcordo cited "personal reasons" for taking a leave from the presidency of National Power Corp.

Now it can be told why.

Alcordo has a pending P81-million claim against El Paso Energy, a US energy company that does business with Napocor. The suit was apparently in the works even before Alcordo was appointed to Napocor.

According to the grapevine, Alcordo has successfully attached several properties of El Paso in the Philippines as a result of that damage suit against the Houston-based company.

Heard through the grapevine

COURT of Appeals Justice Romeo Brawner was in Baguio on Monday meeting with the Regional Trial Court judges whose "drinking" and "womanizing" ways had been denounced by fellow Judge Ruben Ayson.

The word is that Brawner, an ex-Baguio RTC judge himself and a classmate of no less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., has been designated by the Court of Appeals following an SC directive to receive testimony/evidence on the Ayson exposé. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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3345.

That's how many employees have reported their companies to the BSA. 3345 companies using illegal software. And there are still more. The BSA has called a truce period ending on April 30, 2002. This will give companies the chance to discard all their pirated software and replace them with originals.

If you own or belong to one of these companies, you have until April 30 to mull over whether you want to be Number 3346. Or not. Then the hostile takeover, so to speak, begins.

Legalize. Or be penalized.*

The decision is yours.

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W. Bank to call for world poverty crackdown

WASHINGTON—World Bank president James Wolfensohn will try and harness better economic prospects and recent displays of support for poor countries in an action plan designed to crack down on global poverty.

In a statement to be made at the bank's spring meetings this week, Wolfensohn will call for vigorous action on debt relief, efforts on trade, a louder voice for developing countries and a push to fast-track 10 countries on education programs.

Last month's development conference in Monterrey, Mexico, which was attended by heads of state including US President George W. Bush, secured the backing for a set of goals for reducing poverty as well as pledges of billions of dollars in new cash to help poor countries.

The bank said Wolfensohn's plan was intended to "reap the greatest benefit from this fertile international environment."

In addition, the bank sees the "beginnings of a recovery" in the United States and Europe which means the outlook is now more favorable for a restoration of growth in the developing world in 2003 at levels seen during the height of the global boom in 2000.

According to the bank's 2002 global development prospects report, economies of developing countries expanded at a rapid 5.4-percent pace in 2000 but are expected to grow only 3.2 percent this year.

Wolfensohn called on poor countries to stick to their side of the bargain by speedily making the necessary changes to stay on track with poverty reduction strategies.

He also said the bank was thinking about recommending extra debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries initiative where necessary.

Last week, the first example of topping-up under the HIPC program was approved when Burkina Faso reached the end of the scheme but still had an unsustainable debt load because of low cotton prices. The country, the fifth to complete the program, was given an extra $129 million in debt forgiveness. *Reuters*

Japanese regions report spotty economic recovery

TOKYO—Brighter spots are emerging in Japan's economy, but many vital areas such as consumption, capital spending and employment remain sluggish, the finance ministry's regional bureau reported on Tuesday.

The ministry, in a report compiled for a quarterly meeting of its regional bureau chiefs, also said recovery so far had been spotty, with the 11 regions running at different speeds.

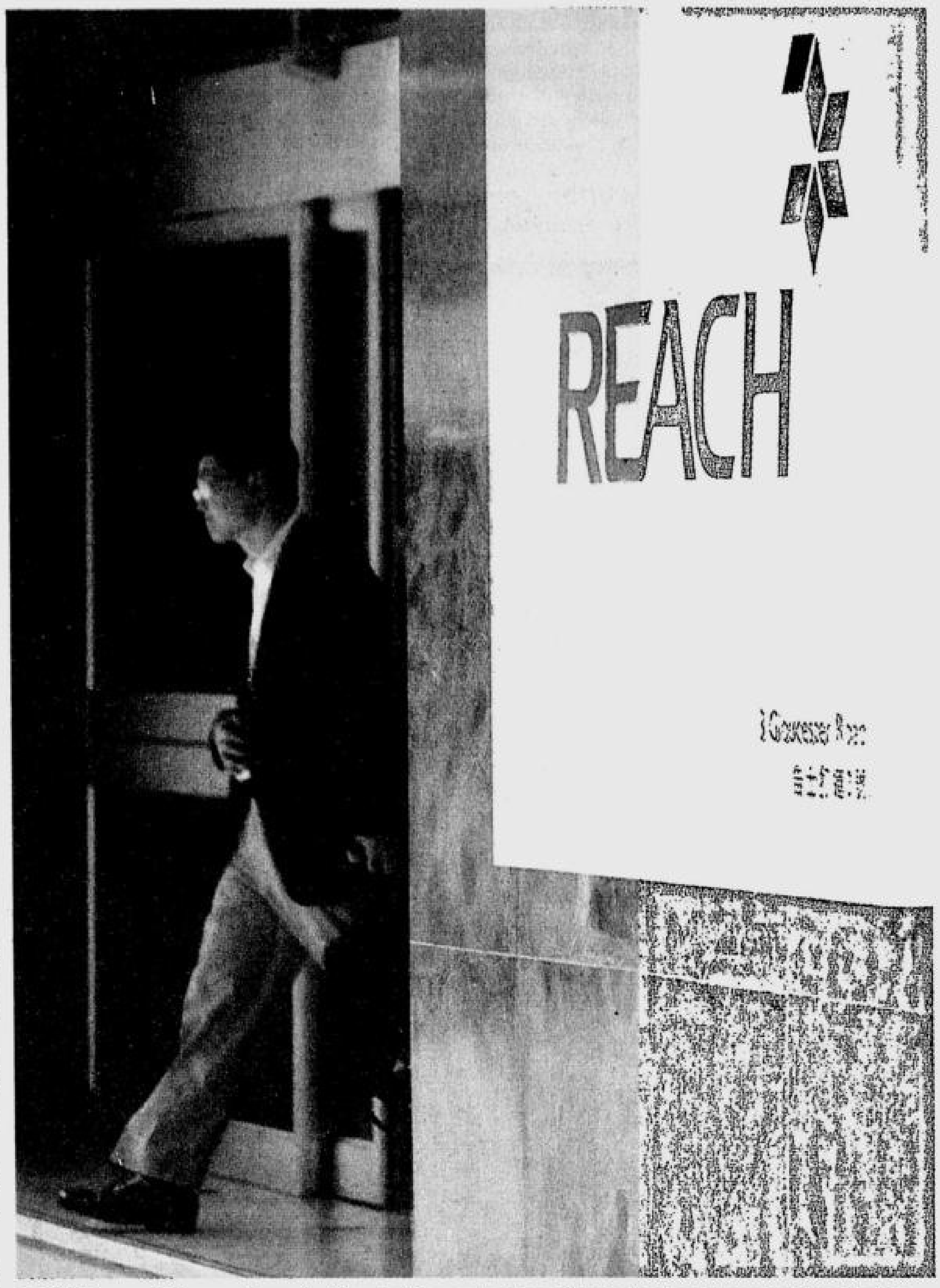
In the latest in a string of recent government reports suggesting a partial recovery in the world's second-largest economy, the bureau said a decline in production was halting in many regions and corporate earnings were set to improve in the new business year that began on April 1.

The more upbeat regional economies were the two biggest industrial areas around Tokyo and Osaka, as well as the Pacific coast area between them.

"Tough conditions persist in our region, but there are signs of bottoming out in some areas," said the Kanto bureau, which covers the area surrounding Tokyo.

The description of the uneven recovery was slightly more downbeat for the rural areas in the north and the southwest.

"There are signs that deterioration is halting in some areas, but tough conditions continue," the Tohoku bureau in the north said, an assessment echoed by Kyushu in the southwest. *Reuters*



A MAN leaves Telecom House in Wanchai, home to Hong Kong's leading telecom's firm, Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd., and Australian giant Telstra Corp.'s joint-venture, Reach Ltd. The joint venture has announced it plans to lay off a total of 229 staff in Hong Kong and abroad, citing strategic reasons. AFP

China warns of 'grim' fiscal situation

BEIJING—China's finance minister Tuesday warned of a "grim" fiscal situation, even as he reported Asia's second-largest economy grew 7.6 percent in the first quarter.

"I believe the fiscal situation is rather grim," Xiang Huaicheng said at a press conference in Beijing. "Growth in revenues has been too slow and growth in expenditures too rapid."

The bleak message came amid signals that the Chinese economy is picking up after a downturn last year.

China's year-on-year economic expansion in the first three months was helped partly by vast government spending, Xiang said.

"We believed (the US slowdown late last year) would have very serious repercussions on the Chinese economy," Xiang said. "So we decided we had to press ahead with the proactive fiscal policy."

China's "proactive" policies, pouring money into infrastructure and other projects in order to lift growth, have been in place since 1998, when China was trying to cushion the effect of the Asian financial crisis.

Now, entirely new challenges have emerged for Chinese policy makers, such as the country's entry into the World Trade Organization, persuading them to carry on with expensive pump-priming measures.

China's statistical office is expected to officially announce economic data for the first quarter on Wednesday.

The growth figure announced by Xiang was roughly in line with a prediction by Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who said last month the economy would expand 7.5 percent in the first three months.

It marks a significant improvement from the last quarter of 2001, when the economy expanded by just 6.6 percent from a year earlier. *AFP*

Coke planning Vanilla Coke debut in May

ATLANTA—Ending months of speculation, Coca-Cola said Monday it would launch a vanilla-flavored version of its flagship soft drink nationwide on May 15.

The soda will be available in Canada later this year.

Vanilla Coke is a line extension of Coca-Cola, to be available in the same bottle and can configurations and for the same prices as Coke.

"There seems to be a lot of consumer interest in the notion of vanilla right now," said Chris Lowe, Coke's senior vice president of worldwide brands and marketing.

"When we put it in a product form, the consumers came away and said 'This tastes super.'"

Also Monday, Coke said it would redesign the packaging of its Cherry Coke brand, which it introduced in 1985.

Coke also produces a Diet Coke with lemon.

With Vanilla Coke, the company is hoping to replicate the success of rival PepsiCo's Code Red, a red version of its Mountain Dew soda.

Analysts say such line extensions offer a relatively easy method of enhancing sales. *AP*

Global firms hasten march to India back-office

BANGALORE, India—The next time a World Bank employee has a problem with their pay-slip, chances are it will get fixed in India.

That is because the Washington-based institution has moved most of its global accounting operations, including payroll processing, to Madras in south India last month.

The bank is part of a growing band of global corporations transferring back office work such as accounting, documentation, financial claims processing and payroll processing to India, as it emerges as a key center of remote processing services.

"The resumé was impressive—huge pool of qualified English-speaking accountants, good telecoms infrastructure and also the references," said Ravinder Paul Bhatia, who heads the World Bank's Indian back-office.

"We looked at a lot of other countries but it also helped that many other corporates have set up such operations in India."

The mantra of business process outsourcing—BPO—is being embraced by companies fighting to keep costs down. And, it is a chance for India to show it is more than just the lower-end call centers services which formed the early wave of the business.

"India, we believe has cracked the barrier in North America to the extent it is now considered mainstream for outsourcing," Warren Gallant, vice chair of global outsourcing consultants TPI Inc., said on a recent visit to Bangalore.

Research and consulting firm Gartner Inc. estimates the BPO business will be worth $234 billion globally by 2005, growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 14 percent from 2000.

"There's now an incredible demand for BPO in the Americas. The hold-up if anything is the lack of suppliers," Gallant said.

TPI is working on 50 outsourcing deals worth $10 billion, he said. Seven of those deals, worth some $2.5 billion, are for BPO and Gallant said India has a good chance to corner them.

BPO savings can have a big impact on a company's earnings as business administration can account for up to 20 percent of costs, said Ramesh Vangal, chair of start-up BPO firm Scandent Networks. *Reuters*

S&P seen cutting Indonesia rating

SINGAPORE—Standard and Poor's said on Tuesday it would downgrade Indonesia's sovereign credit ratings to "selective default" once it had received official details on the private debt affected by Friday's $5.4 billion Paris Club debt rescheduling.

"We still have to check that with them (the Indonesian government)," said Takahira Ogawa, director of S&P's Asia-Pacific sovereign ratings team. He said he expected the details later on Tuesday.

When asked if a downgrade of Indonesia's credit ratings was imminent, he said: "Yes, you can say that."

A downgrade may raise borrowing costs for Indonesia as investors grow more wary of investing in the Southeast Asian state struggling with its $140-billion foreign debt.

A Jakarta newspaper quoted Finance Minister Boediono confirming the government would seek rescheduling of some $340 million of loans owed to foreign private creditors at a meeting with its private creditors, known as the London Club. *Reuters*

US companies become more 'fair' about disclosures

NEW YORK—Even before the Enron scandal broke, Wall Street was already cleaning up its act.

Most notably, the whispers and off-the-record comments that corporate chiefs had long rationed to big investors and analysts disappeared. The reason: Regulation FD, or "Fair Disclosure."

"Instead of giving winks and nods, now (companies) have to be pretty explicit in terms of making public disclosure via press release," said Tom Angers, director of research for Glenmede Trust Co, which has about $15 billion of assets under management.

Before Reg FD, which the US Securities and Exchange Commission implemented in fall 2000, companies would dole out juicy, market-moving tidbits to favored money managers and analysts—and leave the retail investing multitudes in the dark on important business developments. It was a good way to reward loyal shareholders and analysts who could influence other big investors.

Now, however, the opposite is true: Companies seek to distribute corporate news in an equitable manner, and violations of the rule are believed to be few and far between.

"(Executives) don't really provide anything in their prepared remarks that wouldn't be provided in a press release," said Brian Bruce, director of global investments for PanAgora Asset Management, which oversees $13 billion. "It's very rare anymore with Reg FD that you'll be able to get some startling revelation."

Senior executives avoid being too informative during one-on-one meetings, and investors and analysts now must do more legwork such as visiting factories or stores, Bruce said.

In part, management's caution reflects the untested nature of the regulation—while there have been rumblings of potential SEC proceedings, no enforcement action under the 18-month-old rule has been announced. The SEC has a long-standing policy of not commenting on pending cases.

"Everybody seems to want the first enforcement case, (but) nobody wants to be the first enforcement case," said Mark Schonfeld, associate director of the SEC's northeast office, at a Securities Industry Association conference last week. *Reuters*

Chocolate makers target adults

TOKYO—It may not come in a plain brown paper bag, but the latest adult entertainment for Japanese men promises a pleasurable rush and a guilty little thrill.

Chocolate, long considered the vice of children and women, is gaining an unlikely new following in Japan as confectionery makers target supermarket-shy businessmen.

The secret? Bring it straight to the office.

"We just couldn't get through to them with conventional sales methods," said a spokesperson for Ezaki Glico Co. Ltd., Japan's third-largest chocolate maker.

Faced with fierce competition and a declining birth rate that has eroded chocolate sales among Japanese children, the company changed tack, stocking company staff rooms all over Tokyo with special "refreshment boxes."

The boxes operate on an honor system. Put 100 yen (76.1 US cents) in a piggy bank, open a drawer and take the sweet of your choice.

Surveys show that up to 90 percent of adult chocolate purchases at convenience stores are made by women, but men account for 70 percent of refreshment-box sales, Glico said.

The firm plans to open 20 marketing centers for the new service in Tokyo and the western city of Osaka in the next five years, aiming at one billion yen ($7.6 million) in annual sales by 2007.

"Chocolate is being accepted by an increasing number of adults," said Fumio Sukegawa, executive director of the Chocolate and Cocoa Association of Japan. "Companies are introducing new products constantly to attract more buyers."

Manufacturers are also trying to stimulate consumption by touting the purported health benefits of chocolate, pointing to recent studies suggesting the polyphenol contained in cocoa beans can help ward off cancer and reduce stress, he said.

Japanese consumption of chocolate products rose 2.5 percent to 239,027 tons in 2001, the third straight year that demand hit a record high, data compiled by the association showed.

Domestically produced chocolate accounted for 221,696 tons of total consumption, with 17,331 tons coming from imports.

Per-capita consumption in 2001 hit a record 1.88 kg (4.14 pounds), up 2.2 percent from a year earlier.

"Our target is to raise annual consumption to 2 kg per person in the near future," Sukegawa said. *Reuters*

Das 1-Liter-Auto
Hamburg, 15.
Hauptversa

REUTERS

FERDINAND Piech (L), outgoing CEO of Germany's Volkswagen AG, and his designated successor, Bernd Pischetsrieder, present the prototype of the new "one-liter Volkswagen" car in Hamburg. The energy efficient car, built out of carbon fiber, uses a mere 0.999 liters of diesel per 100 kilometers.

SEC sets up Internet-based verification, registry system

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PUBLIC can now verify names of organizations or register a corporation online with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC launched yesterday "SEC-iRegister," a Web-based company registration system.

The name verification component of the P40-million project will allow the public to view, verify and reserve company names, while the company registration system will allow the submission and approval of the registration of a company, partnership or non-profit organization.

The SEC-iRegister is designed to be a quick, convenient and user-friendly service available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It may be accessed through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.ph and clicking the online transaction button.

In a statement yesterday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said SEC-iRegister "is our first step in advancing the use of online technologies in the delivery of quicker, more efficient and better services to the public."

"We hope that, in the process, we are giving a significant contribution in fostering the competitiveness of the Philippines and promoting its viability as a base for globally competitive business operations."

The new system was structured by Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. in partnership with 25*8, a digital solutions provider with expertise in enterprise solutions.

The SEC-iRegister is the first in a series of computerization projects that the SEC will undertake at a cost of P165 million, including an online transaction processing system, an online analytical processing system and a decision support system.

'MISLEADING'

PSE official slams survey plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

A RANKING officer of the Philippine Stock Exchange has criticized the plan of the floor trading and arbitrage committee (FTAC) to conduct a survey on the proposed extension of afternoon trading from 2-4 p.m.

In a strongly worded letter sent to brokers yesterday, PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman, nominee of local brokerage Securities Specialists Inc., said the survey about afternoon trading was "misleading."

"...I don't feel any enthusiasm about afternoon trading at this time. But what I do sense is that the exchange is so filled with politics, even when business is business," Villaroman said.

"The fact is that the decision of the board of directors is that trading in the afternoon is at the discretion of the management of each brokerage house. And if a brokerage chooses to trade, it can also choose to trade from its off-site system or on the trading floor," he explained.

PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco earlier said the board would consult the FTAC on the proposed modification of the afternoon trading hours.

FTAC, for its part, decided to conduct a survey on the preferred afternoon trading schedule. Brokers were asked to choose between retaining the existing 1-2:30 p.m. or shifting the afternoon session to either 1:30-3 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.

"In short, each brokerage firm can vote by turning its computer switch off or leaving it on. Why then is there a need for a survey, especially one that misleads by not disclosing all the facts about the board's decision?" Villaroman noted.

Based on initial feedback among brokers, some members wanted to adopt a straight trading slot of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They claimed that the radical change in lifestyle required by longer trading hours was unacceptable.

Others, however, said the further extension of trading hours was not justified by the lackluster market volume.

Villaroman further said: "Three years ago, I was among those who voted against afternoon trading. And so I find it strange indeed that I may now be speaking on the side of a decision for which I don't feel any special passion."

The 2-4 p.m. trading extension was backed by Yuchengco and most members of the 15-member PSE board.

Japan backs out of port project in Zamboanga

By Rolly A. San Juan and Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Japanese government has formally backed out of a $65-million or P3-billion loan for the proposed modernization and expansion of the Zamboanga port, due to perceived peace and order problems and bad publicity hounding the city.

This was reported by Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat during the recent joint induction of the Zamboanga City Tourism Foundation, Inc. and the Western Mindanao Tourism Press Corps at the Garden Orchid Hotel.

"We have lost a $65-million project," Lobregat said, adding that this was the "effect of bad publicity."

Lobregat said other similar projects like the Southern Philippines Ports Package worth $36 million and intended for Davao and Cagayan de Oro cities were also canceled due to the refusal of the Japanese government to act as facilitator.

The proposed Zamboanga port modernization project was approved by the national government a year ago.

Lobregat said his office, in coordination with the office of his mother, wrote Japanese officials last month asking them to reconsider their decision, but to no avail.

"We are still trying to revive it but as of today, there is nothing definite," Lobregat said.

The Lobregats have sought presidential intervention by presenting the problem to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the latter's visit to the city last Feb. 26.

The President promised to exert all efforts to revive the project and even promised to look for other financing institutions for the project's funding in the event the Japanese government stands firm on its decision.

Lobregat said bad publicity on the peace and order situation in the city was the major factor that led the Japanese government to back out from the project.

"Zamboanga City's image has been tarnished by bad publicity both locally, nationally and internationally," Lobregat said, as he called on the members of the tourism press corps to help revive the image of Zamboanga City as one of the major tourist destinations in the South.

Lobregat said the "whole world knows Zamboanga. Unfortunately the city is known for something negative and not positive."

He cited the Sipadan and Dos Palmas hostage-taking incidents, the recent Cabatangan hostage crisis as among the various incidents that placed Zamboanga City in the world map.

Equitable PCI reports ₱140M in 'net profit'

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's fourth largest lender, reported a net profit of P140 million for 2001, but its external auditor issued a qualified opinion on the financial results, saying the bank should actually have booked a net loss of nearly P5 billion if it had followed generally accepted accounting principles as most listed companies do.

In the annual report of the bank, SGV & Co., the bank's external auditors, said that the financial statements reflected the true state of the bank except for two items.

First, the bank charged to surplus P4.7 billion in provisions for probable losses. If the bank followed GAAP and charged this to operations first, then net income would be reduced by P4.2 billion.

Also, the bank booked income from the sale of its 60-percent stake in Bankard Inc. in 2001 rather than in 2000, overstating that year's income by P787 million.

All told, Equitable PCI Bank's net income of P140 million should have been a net loss of P4.847 billion.

Equitable PCI is not the only bank to have booked provisions for probable losses to window-dress bottomline.

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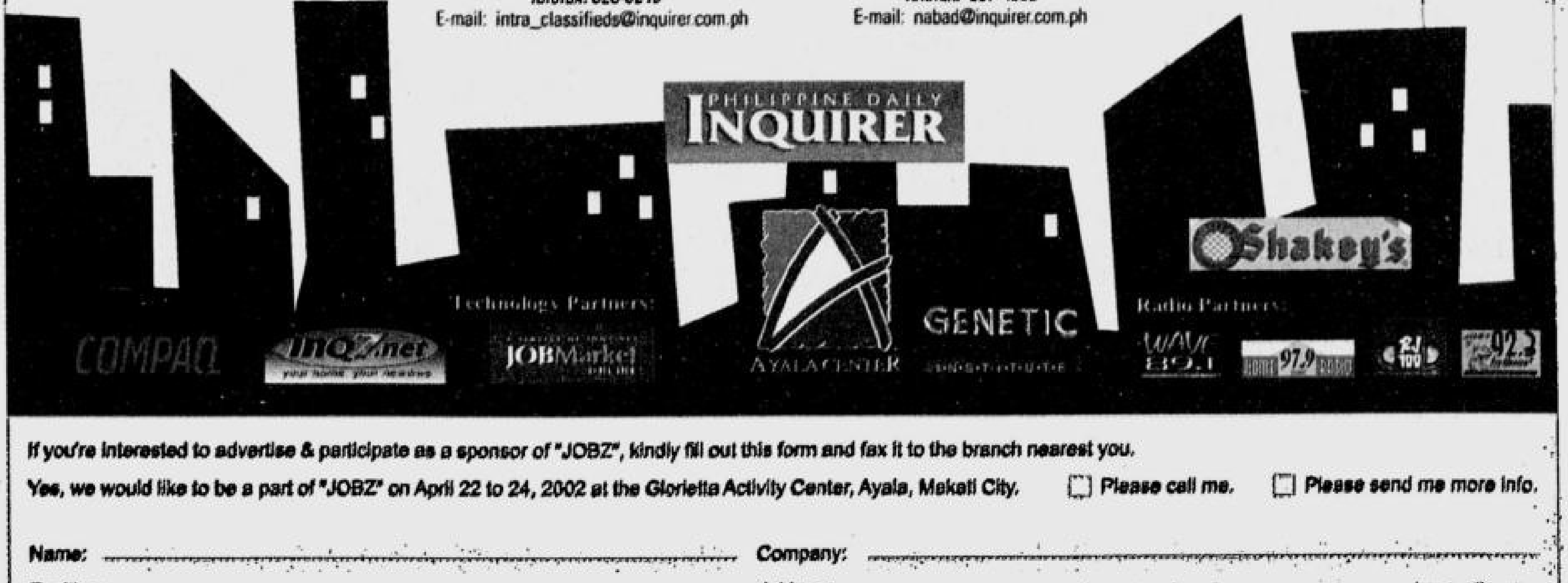

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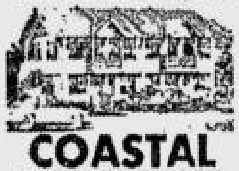

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QUEZON CITY

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Nr SM City Edsa 2BR U&D w/ Prkg 80C Pangasinan T-9263934 CP-00174796789

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ALABANG

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QUEZON CITY

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★URGNT OFFICE CLERK Col Grad/ColLevel9134470MAC★

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Real Estate Seminar
April 20,27,May 4,11&18 (1-6pm)
Tel.# 687-0312 • 0919-3271936

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RICO H. GUARIN has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc No. 441, Page No. 08, Book No. 51, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Patria G. Abella
(PDI- April 3, 10, &17 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that Passport#067135 issued to DELIA L. PUMARADA was lost last March 20, 2002 in NAIA Centennial, Airport Terminal.
(PDI - April 17, 2002)

An "expanding" Multinational Internet Co.
Urgently Needs
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- Male; at least 25 years old
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- Preferably working with ISP or Web Hosting Service Provider

Interested parties may apply "personally" at Unit 801 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City or "online" at elana@tulinonline.com.

NOTICE OF LOSS

The following series of Official Receipt Nos. **209578** to **209600** of **Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation** was lost. The public is hereby warned not to accept/ honor the above-mentioned Official Receipts.

For any attempt to issue the said Official Receipts, please call **816-6501** local **6617** or **6007**.

(PDI - April 17 & 18, 2002)

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to prequalify and participate in a sealed bidding for the proposed science research and instructional laboratory(supply and installation of laboratory furniture and room improvement).

Bidders should strictly have the following qualifications:

1. Bonafide manufacturers and/or dealers (as main line of business) of laboratory furniture.
2. Have in its employ licensed architect and engineers to supervise and handle the technical aspect of the project.
3. Proven tract record in the supply and installation of laboratory furniture in science laboratories.

Prequalification Information Sheet may be obtained from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (527-7941 to 48 loc. 16), after paying the corresponding non-refundable fee. Duly accomplished forms together with the required prequalification statements/documents are to be submitted not after than April 22, 2002.

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA N. SANTOS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Evaluation, Bidding, and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 17, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Work fr Home w/ Travel 8376088

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

"Ivy Sayson Dominguez successfully passed the board exam for ECE held last April 9-10, 2002. Ivy is the daughter of Peter and Lolita Dominguez of Magarao, Camarines Sur.
Ivy completed her Bachelor in Electronics & Communications Engineering degree last year from the Ateneo de Naga Unviersity."

BARRAK INTERNATIONAL CENTER TRADING & CONTRACTING CO.W.L.L.
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Accreditation No. 69681

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION ENGINEER

Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Electronics & Communication Engineering (BSECE)

CELLPHONE TECHNICIAN

2 years of Basic Electronics or Engineering

- Have at least 2 years experience in Electronics (cellphones).
- Have knowledge in Soldering & Trouble shooting surface mounted Chips (cellphones).
- Familiar to all types of Electronics & Communication Test Equipment
- Computer literate
- Be familiar with Cellphone Test Equipment.
- Age should be between 22-35 years old.

ROTATING EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST (ESR)
SENIOR ROTATING EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (SRT)

Must be a graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering, at least 8-10 years of experience, 35-40 years old, can speak and understand English, capable of handling direct supervision, knowledgeable in Refinery, Gas Plant, Chemical Plants, overhauling large size Centrifugal Compressor, Steam and Gas Turbines and Diesel Engines.

Qualified applicants must apply in person and bring the ff.:
Two sets photocopy of; Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Employment Certificate Passport and other credentials, 2 pcs. 2x2 ID pictures.

A&W INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST
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City of Pasig Where People, Pride and Progress make the difference

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF PASIG is inviting interested contractors to apply for eligibility and after having been found eligible/prequalified, to tender their bids for the DESIGN, FURNISHING and INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL WIRING FACILITIES FOR PASIG CITY'S PUBLIC MARKET at Barangay San Nicolas, Pasig City.

This invitation shall be limited to contractors currently registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board, with its principal classification as General Building and must have the expertise on Electrical Works and Mechanical Works, license CATEGORY "AA", and must also be registered as LARGE "A" for Building Structures and Industrial Plant.

Bidders/contractors who do not comply with these legal recruitments need not apply for eligibility.

The following are the schedule of Pre-Construction activities:

(1) Submission of Prequalification Statements for Eligibility **(Starting April 22, ending at 5:00 PM of April 26, 2002)**
(2) Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents **(May 2 to May 7, 2002)**
(3) Pre-Bid Conference **(10:00 AM of May 7, 2002)**
(4) Submission and Opening of Bids **(10:00 AM of May 17, 2002)**

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or informalities therein or to accept such bid as may be found advantageous to the City Government of Pasig.

For more particulars and details please see the Office of the PBAC and or the Office of the Local Technical Committee at the Pasig City Hall.

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

(Sgd.) **SOLEDAD C. EUSEBIO**
City Mayor

(PDI -- Apr. 13 & 17, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Spin doctors

Q. Why are political public relations consultants and admen called "spin doctors"?

A. In the jargon of US politics, *spin* means interpretation, the bias or slant put on information when it is presented to the public or in a media conference. All information can have a positive or negative *spin*, which is actually a sporting metaphor, from the *spin* put on the ball, for example by a basketball shooter. *Doctor* derives from the various figurative uses of the verb *doctor* (ranging from 'patch up, mend' to 'falsify').

For the Record. The phrase *spin doctor* was first used in print in October 1984 in an editorial in the *New York Times* about the aftermath of the televised debate between US presidential candidates Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale: "A dozen men in good suits and women in silk dresses will circulate among the reporters, spouting confident opinions. They won't be just press agents trying to impart a favorable spin to a routine release. They'll be the Spin Doctors, senior advisers to the candidates."

Past Forward. This day in 1961: A small force of about 1,500 Cuban exiles, trained and armed at a secret CIA base in Guatemala, met disaster in its aim of toppling the Communist regime of Fidel Castro. The invaders ran into the Cuban army soon after landing in the Bahia de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs); about 400 were killed and the rest captured. The misadventure came to be known as the Bay of Pigs Fiasco.

WORD WATCH

Fiasco (fee as koh) :a complete failure, esp. a project with great plans that ends as a ridiculous failure.

PDI -- April 17, 2002

PNOC
The Energy Company
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
1st Floor, Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. 840-1442 Fax No. (632) 840-1441

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), has authorized the privatization of PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), a company engaged in the exploration, development, and utilization of energy resources.

PNOC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-EC.

Prospective financial advisors who meet all of the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has extensive global and Asian experience as financial advisor to governments on privatizations;
- has knowledge and experience in Asian and Philippine petroleum exploration and production sector;
- has extensive experience in lead-managing public equity offerings and arranging private equity sales, both globally and in Asia;
- if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of petroleum/energy experts in the country;
- No conflict of interest related to being the privatization adviser of PSALM

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on **April 5, 2002** during regular office hours from PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6 Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on **April 22, 2002** at 12:00 noon.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. 840-1442 and fax No. 840-1441.

(Sgd.) **DIR. NELSON B. BAYOT, SR.**
Chairman, PNOC-EC
Privatization Committee

(PDI - April 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR
Municipality of San Luis

INVITATION TO BID

(No. 01-ADS-SNL-004)

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agriculture (DA) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contracts for rural infrastructure component.

The Municipal Government of San Luis, an implementing partner of DA for MRDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following:

Contract No.	Name of Project	Location	Scope of Work
01-ADS-SNL-004	Construction of Coalicion-Kasilayan RCDG Bridge	Coalicion, San Luis, Agusan del Sur	Construction of 26 LM one lane RCDG Bridge

Re-bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits. Bid documents will be available beginning **April 17, 2002** at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Municipal Government of San Luis, Agusan del Sur upon payment of non-refundable fee of (P2,000.00).

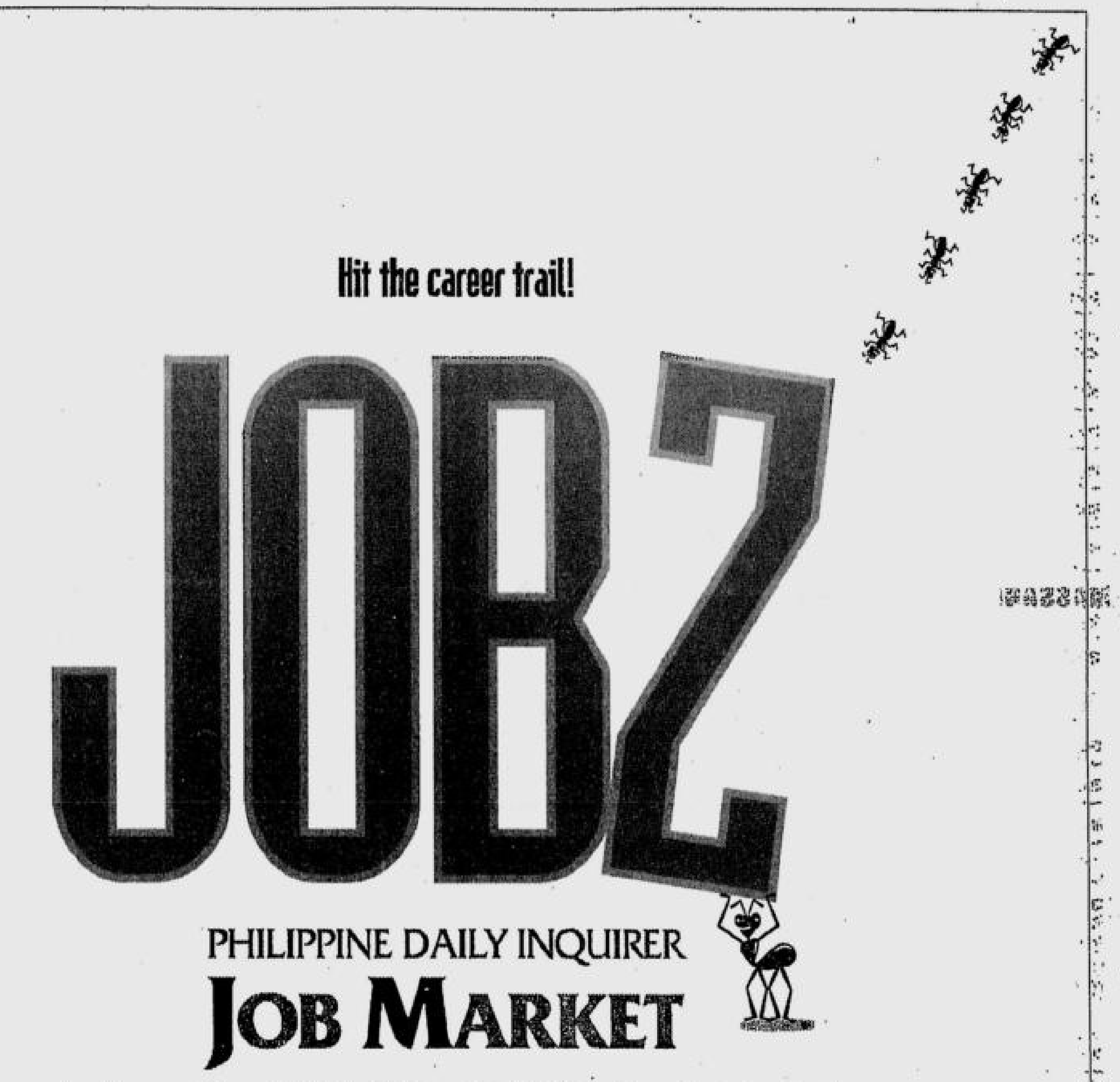
The PBAC will receive sealed bids including duly accomplished qualification statements on prescribed forms from interested bidders until 10:00 AM on **May 17, 2002** at the Municipal Hall, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. Thereafter, bids shall be opened beginning at 10:00 AM of the same date. Prior to the bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on **April 25, 2002** at the Municipal Hall, San Luis, Agusan del Sur.

Bid security in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, certified checks, manager's check or bank guarantee to guarantee bid security shall be required from the bidder. Any form of Bidder's Bond from any surety or bonding companies shall not be accepted as bid security.

All particulars relative to the bidding shall be in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Guidelines. The Municipal Government of San Luis, Agusan del Sur reserves the rights to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the lowest evaluated complying and responsive bid.

(Sgd.) **JOSE O. CHUA, SR.**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--April 17, 2002)



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Simply place a 60 col. ad (minimum size) in the April 21, 2002 issue of Job Market to enjoy the following:

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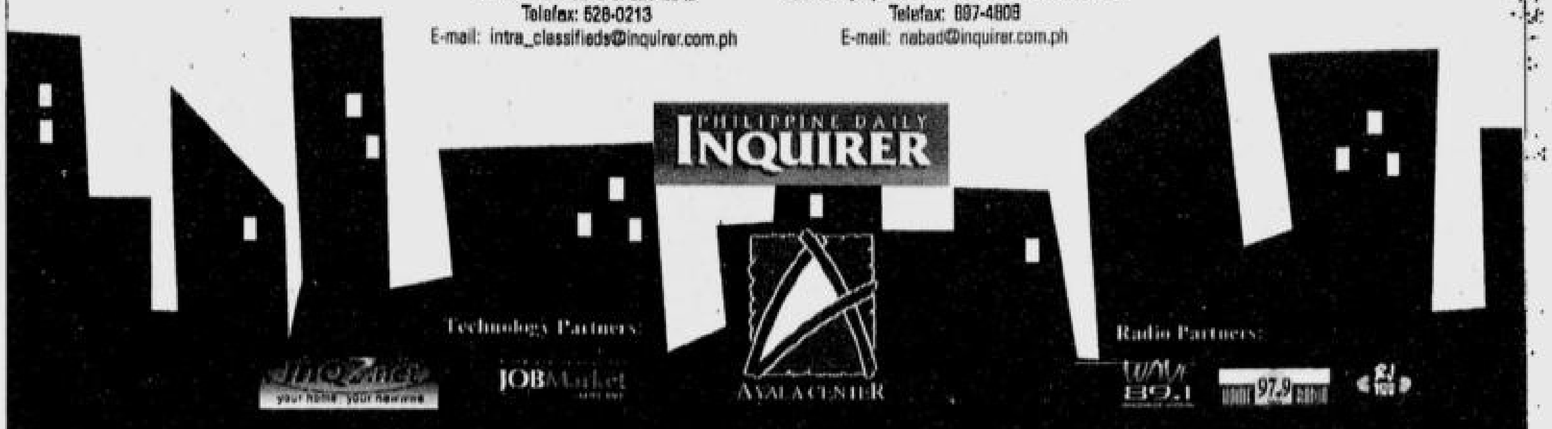

If you're interested to advertise & participate as a sponsor of "JOBZ", kindly fill out this form and fax it to the branch nearest you.

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ALFREDO Y. UYECIO

joined our Maker on the 10th of April 2002 in California, USA at the age of 52.

He is survived by

HIS WIFE
Molly

CHILDREN
James and Jolene

PARENTS
Vicente and Rosario

BROTHERS & SISTERS & THEIR SPOUSES
Manuel and Cecilia Uyecio
Milagros Uyecio
Romeo and Julia Uyecio
Reynaldo and Belen Uyecio
Nilda and Edgardo Lua

HIS WIFE'S BROTHERS & SISTERS & THEIR SPOUSES
Sally and Justino Ong Pac
Lily and Peter Yap
Judy and Francis Chu
David and Dulce Coyukiat
Nely and David Fu
Fely and Carlos Ley
Willy and Melody Coyukiat
Bobby (+) and Sally Coyukiat.

His cremated remains will be at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati beginning noon of April 19, 2002. Necrological services will be held at the Capilla del Señor at 9 a.m. on April 22, 2002, after which his ashes will be interred at the Union Church of Manila Columbarium, Makati City.

"There are many rooms in my father's house;
I would not tell you this if it were not true.
I am going there to prepare a place for you.
After I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take you to be with me
so that you may be where I am."
John 14:2-3

God saw you getting tired
So He wrapped His arms around you
And whispered "Come to Me"
So He gave you rest.

GOD HAS CALLED HOME OUR BELOVED MAMA

JOSEFA "Ing" LUNA Y SISON

(March 19, 1912 - April 15, 2002)

AND REUNITED HER WITH OUR BELOVED DADDY

SEVERINO "BENNY" N. LUNA

Her remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Church, Taft Avenue, corner G. Apacible St., Manila.

Interment will take place on Saturday, 20th April 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

MANUEL A. RAMIREZ, JR.

(of Balayan, Batangas)
December 24, 1922 - April 15, 2002

His wife **Fanny**; brothers and sister **Badong** (†) & **Loleng** (†), **Pete** & **Ely**, **Vic** & **Visi**, **Romy** & **Dolly**, **Rose** & **Joe** and **Mila**, request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial, Novaliches, Quezon City, on Thursday, April 18, 2002, after a Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the said church.

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from
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Jesus.
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2 Corinthians 4:14

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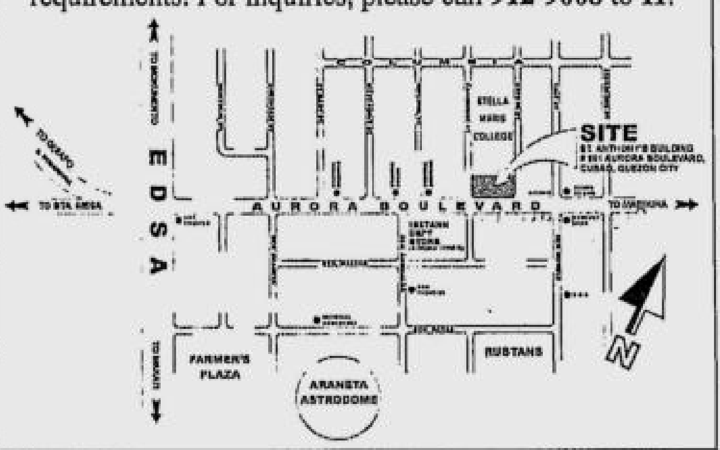

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WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I'M IN love. Hopelessly. And I have all the symptoms to prove it. I am suddenly restless, distracted and listless. I've lost my appetite and daydream all day. At work, I can't concentrate. At parties, I choose only to be beside my beloved, never even a few inches away, never with another person in between. I'm possessive and insanely jealous. My life has changed completely. I am now wrapped around the tiny finger of a lovely two-year-old named Rocio. Slave to her love.

She's my niece, the youngest child of my brother who lives and works in Bangkok. I don't see much of her. Over the last year, this is only the second time we've met. But I am smitten. Completely.

Maybe it's because my own daughter is pushing 12 next month; it's been a decade since she was two. Maybe it is because Rocio has a striking resemblance to me. Maybe it is because she is imperial in her ways, slow to warm up, but extremely charming when won over. Or maybe it is simply because she has chosen me, above all the rest, to be her friend and confidante.

How did I get to be so honored? The diaper ceremony, of course.

If Linus has a security blanket, Rocio has a security diaper. She insists on a fresh one everyday—washed and ironed to her liking. She sniffs at this diaper, beginning at a corner and then slowly moving along the edges to the next corner. When her energy is waning, between playtime and siesta time, during car rides, or right before bedtime, she begins her diaper sniffing ritual. When all the corners and edges have been sniffed, she simply holds the diaper to her nose, leaving only her eyes visible between the diaper "veil" and her little girl bangs. In this way, she looks like an Arabian princess or a mysterious Taliban. Nobody can tell what thoughts lie within.

She's possessive of her diaper; screaming, "mine!" when anyone dares take it away from her. She will not have anyone hold her diaper for her. It is hers and hers alone. It is the symbol of her power.

And this she has bestowed on me. One afternoon, after a whole day of playing, I lay on her bed all worn out. When I least expected it, she came to me and draped her diaper over my face, leaving only my eyes free. Not thinking much of it yet, I pulled the diaper down to my chest; I was not comfortable with it covering my nose. In a few minutes, she came back and draped the diaper over my nose again. I tried it again, pulling the diaper away from my face. She came back a third time, draping it back on me. Then I realized, she had chosen me. She had tagged me as a link to her. She affirmed what I was too embarrassed to admit: we were two links in a chain. I was her and she was I. She is the little girl that I was, I am the adult she could be. I held this truth in my heart and let the diaper stay on my nose.

This lesson from Rocio came powerfully back to me at work. The company I work for is going through a company-wide, succession-planning program. It is an intricate, tedious but very necessary step in the growth of an organization. It involves looking at the whole group and tagging your link to the future. It means taking active participation in the planning of your career path and the future of the company. It gives you a chance to name who you think can come after you and whom you can succeed. It also allows you to choose between three possible paths—management, creative and subject matter expertise. Thus, it throws open the gates to career advancement without necessarily taking the management track, a path many working moms are reluctant to take. Despite their capability and obvious talent, moms are afraid the path will take more time away from their children. So, they've chosen to retire early or stay stagnant in their career, even if they've fallen in love with their job and their company, because breaking the glass ceiling through the management track is just too demanding.

By giving working moms a chance to plot their own careers, companies are offering security blankets. Not that tenure will be guaranteed, there is no such thing in the new economy, but that trust is given in advance. It is a trust that we can grow together. It is a gesture that says we are willing to explore the many ways we can be linked. It is the sad experience of many companies that when a retirement plan is offered, the takers are not those who are redundant but those who the company would have wanted to keep—many of them are talented working moms. But, if working moms are given the chance to look for alternative growth options, look for successors and mentors, companies will be able to hold on to them longer. Just as Rocio shared her source of security with me, my own company is telling me that its security lies in our talent and our love for our work. Any working mom will recognize that.

PEOPLE*at*WORK COMMUNITY
Resources & Events

PEOPLE*at*WORK *Live!* Seminar Series

In celebration of the second year anniversary of the People at Work section, the People at Work Live! Seminar Series is offering a bonus seminar to companies with paid registrations of six or more participants in the upcoming People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Key Competencies which will be held this coming May 28, 29 and 30 at the Equitable PCI Bank Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City. The free two-hour seminar to be held on May 30 will be on "Measuring the ROI in Human Capital." This will be conducted by Norman Ramion, the Asia Pacific Leader for Employee Research and Diagnostics of Mercer Human Resource Consulting. This seminar will be useful for executives, management and supervisory personnel and human resource practitioners. Since there are only 400 seats available, qualified registrants will be accepted only up to the limit of the available seats. Call tel. nos. 414-0186, 414-0587 for more information.

STUDIO 23'S "BREAKFAST"

Studio 23's Breakfast, which airs Monday to Friday from 6:30 to 8 a.m., will do another take on the topic of communication in the workplace in its People at Work segment on Monday, April 22. To get a glimpse of an internal communications program in a company, Breakfast hosts and INQUIRER's Corporate Relations Head will interview Godofredo San Juan who heads the HR group of Universal Robina Corporation.

PaW editor Regina Galang Reyes writes on speaking your way to the top in her column "People at Work" in this April's issue of Metro Working Mom. She describes the different styles of communication—submissive, aggressive and assertive—and shows which one can help you in your career.

Pranic course for executives

Executives worn out by everyday stress can take a one-day seminar on "The Pranic Course for Executives" to be conducted by Master Choa Kok Sul on April 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACCEED Bldg. Benavidez St. Legaspi Village, Makati City. This is based on pranic healing, a healing system based on the use of natural ethneric energy, that can help executives realize a bigger portion of your executive potential. To register call the Institute for Inner Studies at tel. nos. 810-2808 or 812-2326.

How to handle...

(From page B11)

the organization and you follow the normal procedures.

Celine: What if you don't know who started the gossip?

Alan: Then you go to plan A, which is to find the biggest gossip.

PaW: How can an organization stop this from happening?

Daisy: Organizations need to have information of interest to those who work for it flowing down and across the hierarchy on a regular basis. Information instruments, such as newsletters, Friday Flash news sheets, intranet links and general memoranda, all help to disseminate information through the organization. But best of all, companies can conduct personal briefings by those people in the organization who know most about the topic. Delivery can be by presentation, video or internal TV depending on the size of the organization and its geographical dispersion.

PaW: How about malicious gossip?

Daisy: Malicious gossip is another matter. The focus of the gossip is usually a person and it is the individual who is the subject of the gossip who suffers. How should it be handled? The answer is, "As quickly as possible." Who should handle it? The manager of the person who is spreading the gossip if the person can be identified. And what if that person can't be identified? The best action is for an "official" statement to be released refuting the allegations (assuming that they are incorrect). And what if they are true? The organization has an obligation to protect all its employees on the basis of the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" and to ensure that nobody spreads malicious gossip, whether true or false. Many organizations have a policy of dismissal for such an offense.

PaW: How about when the gossip concerns confidential matters relating to the company?

Daisy: Many organizations have an instant dismissal policy for doing this and anybody aware of gossip in this area should report it to a person who has the authority to act.

PaW: Can we stop gossip?

Daisy: Of course we can't. Whole industries have developed on the basis of gossip. We only have to look at some tabloid newspapers to see that this is the case. Organizations use the gossip chain, the informal communication network, to spread information that they want to be heard by other people. Governments have "spin doctors," normally called press officers, especially appointed to spread information that may not be entirely correct. However, within an organization, we can reduce the incidence of adverse "gossip" by not listening to people who try to spread it, and certainly not being part of the chain. As a manager, a person must be seen to be above such things and never participate in gossip. Managers are the models that their team members use to work out what is "OK" around her and what is "not OK." "Gossip" is "not OK" and must be seen as an undesirable behavior. As a staff member, maybe you can use psychological pressure to indicate that you see the person who is trying to include you in the gossip chain as doing something not right. A Filipina friend of mine uses a light-hearted method when a gossiper approaches her. She politely says, "*Magagalit si* Lord." To most Filipinos this should indicate your displeasure at their behavior.

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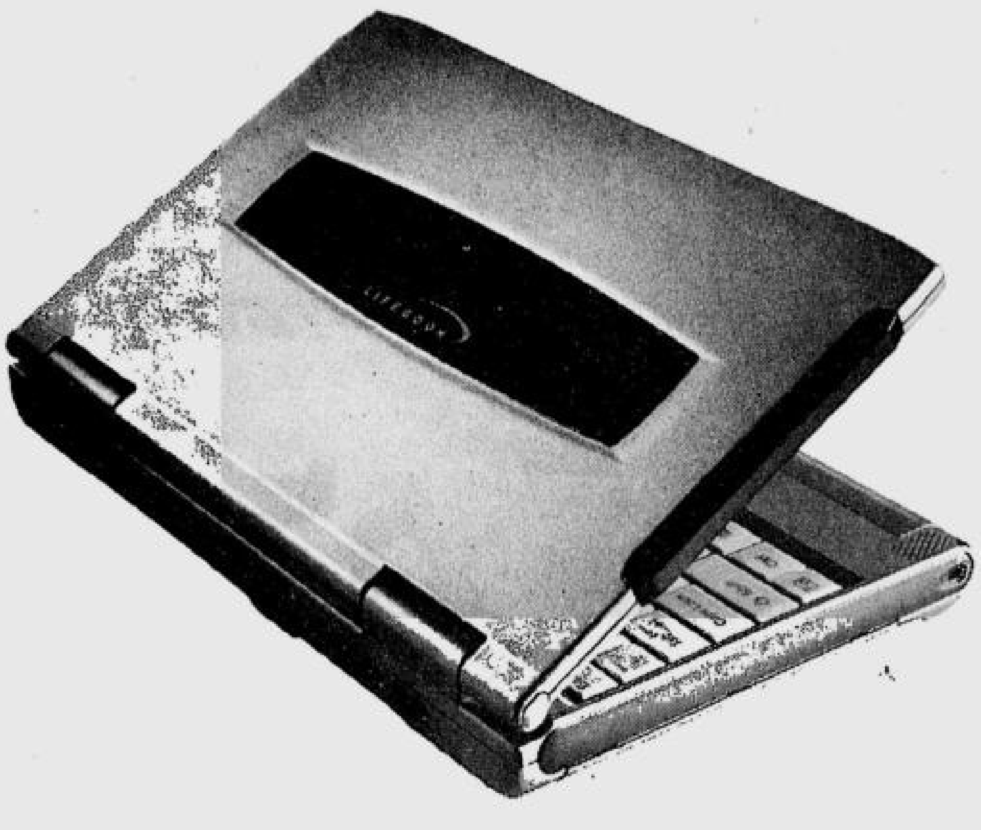

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to handle gossip at work

'We can reduce the incidence of gossip by not listening to people who try to spread it'

(The following is the interview conducted by "Breakfast" host JC Gonzales and INQUIRER Corporate Relations Head Celine Madamba in last Monday's People at Work segment on "Breakfast," aired from 6:30 to 8 a.m. from Mondays to Fridays on Studio 23. To get more information on the topic, the interview was continued after the show by the People at Work staff.)

JC: Again it's a Monday and our friends from the Philippine Daily Inquirer will join us for our newest segment, "People at Work." Our topic is going to be quite a juicy one, something that most offices can relate to. We going to talk about office gossip or *tsismis*.

Celine: For today's segment, we are pleased to have with us two resource persons who conduct training programs on effective communication. I'm sure they will have a lot of say about our topic. Let's welcome Mr. Alan Barker. He is the managing director for Asia Pacific of SCS or Strategic Consulting Services. Let's also welcome Ms Daisy Marquez, the managing director of IMPACT Consultancy Group which is SCS's representative here in the Philippines. As trainors and experts in the field of interpersonal communication, please tell us why people gossip and why gossip flourishes in the workplace?

PHOTO BY DENNIS SABANGAN

FROM left are "Breakfast" host JC Gonzales, INQUIRER Corporate Relations Head Celine Madamba, IMPACT managing director Daisy Marquez and SCS managing director Alan Barker

Daisy: Well, I think to begin with, gossip is a form of communication—a communication channel—which means that the reason it exists is there is a gap in the flow of information in the organization. The problem though is that it's not always positive. Sometimes the communication that comes out of gossip is distorted or negative.

Celine: What's the most common kind of gossip? Is it more personal or work-related?

Alan: I would say the most common would be personal or just the normal gossip. There are three different types of gossip. One is normal gossip, another is malicious gossip and the third is information spread about the organization.

JC: Give us an example of each one.

Alan: Well, I think normal gossip is just chatter that gets around the office, usually about relationships. Malicious gossip would be about an individual which is genuinely malicious, that is, it's bringing the person down in some way. And the final one is the type that reveals the "state secrets" about the organization—and that's probably the worst one of all.

JC: How does gossip within the office hurt the workplace?

Daisy: Well, I think to begin with, it destroys relationships. Malicious gossip can even destroy careers. On the organizational level, it can also be very hurting in the sense that when an organization wants to bring out something or does not want to reveal information and that information is revealed prematurely, then it's definitely very damaging. It will either destroy plans or arouse emotions from the people which are totally unexpected.

JC: How do you correct something like that in a society like in the Philippines—we live off *tsismis*. It makes our day and conversations more interesting. How do you handle that?

Alan: I don't think it's just a Filipino thing. I think it's worldwide. How do you handle it? It depends on the type of gossip. If it's just gossip, then I think you have to live with that. If it's malicious gossip, then as the manager's personal responsibility, he has an obligation to handle that particular situation. So he would have to confront the person. In some organizations, malicious gossip is ground for dismissal. So it depends on the organization.

Celine: Is there a correlation between the success of the company and the extent of gossip in that organization?

Daisy: Gossip is very counterproductive because you use a lot of time having to resolve problems in interpersonal relationships and having to correct information instead of getting work done.

JC: If I'm a victim of gossip, is it my job to go up to people and clear my name? Or should I go to my superiors and say that people are talking about me? How am I supposed to handle it if I'm a victim of gossip?

Alan: It's a difficult situation. If gossip has gone around in the whole organization, it's very difficult for you to actually see everybody. But I read a research paper done in the States sometime ago that the best thing to do is to find the person who is the biggest gossip in the place. Then you can put your seed (of information) into that person. In effect, you use the office grapevine.

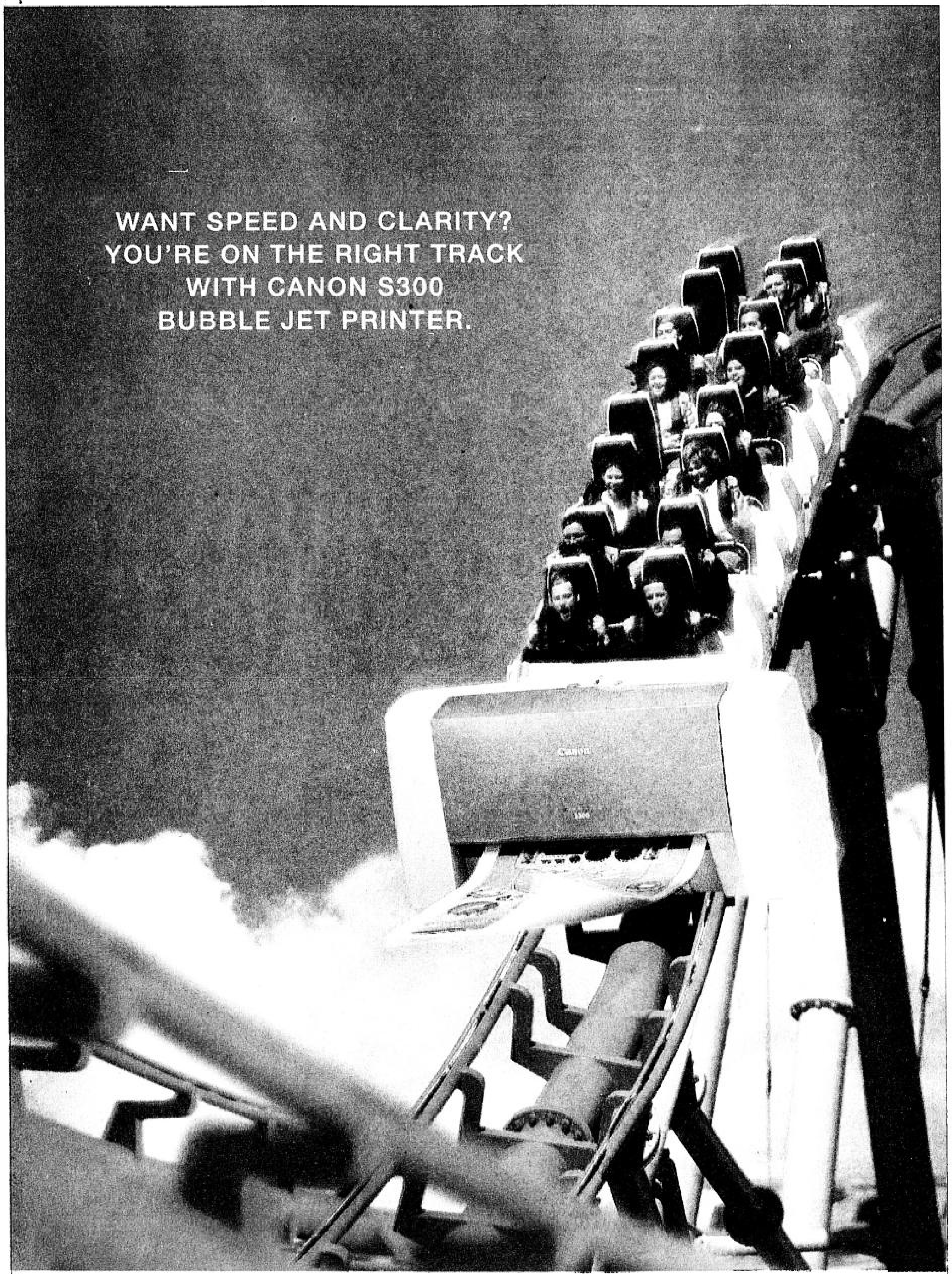
Daisy: I have another take on that. When you try to counter negative gossip or negative information, I think it is very important that the person you're going to choose to spread the counter-information has credibility and is a person of moral authority, somebody who's respected. That's the way to do it.

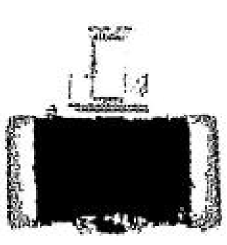
Alan: The person who's spreading the gossip in the first place must be confronted. And if it's about you, then I would suggest you see him face to face.

Celine: So you don't recommend going to the HR manager or your boss?

Alan: The first thing is talk to the person. However, having done that and it still persists, then obviously there is a chain of authority and command within

HOWTOHANDLE/B11





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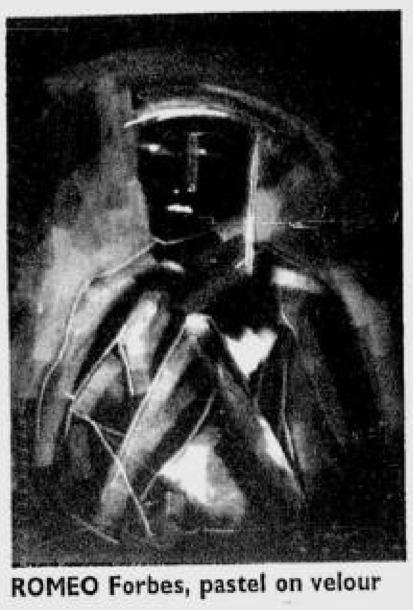
2bU! LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Let there be art!



ROMEO Forbes, pastel on velour

Summer is the season for arts and crafts workshops. 2bU! provides you the best guide on the workshop scene as well as the best features on today's most exciting young painters, illustrators, sculptors and photographers in an issue that is a work of art itself

Museum-crazy in the city

By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

FILIPINOS in general are far from being culture vultures. In fact, if not for school field trips and the patronage of tourists from abroad, museums in this country can hardly thrive.

Considering the lack of enthusiasm for art museums and galleries, Metro Manila has a surprising number of them. It's high time we banish the notion that museums are dull and purely educational. They are there to interest and move us.

For those who want to give our museums a chance, here's a simple guide to the more notable ones in Metro Manila.

The National Museum has a wide collection of artworks of 19th-century masters, National Artists for the visual arts and leading contemporary artists. Its main attraction is the huge "Spoliarium" by Juan Luna that won a gold medal in the National Exposition of Fine Arts in Madrid, Spain in 1884.

For April and May, the museum is open to the public only from Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It will go back to its old schedule in June. The old museum is still undergoing renovation, but you can still see some of the displays. You can also check out the National Museum of the Filipino People at the old Finance Building where you can see Rizal's sculptures. There's an entrance fee of P100 for adults and P30 for students and children.

The San Agustin Museum is a private museum. It is really an old monastery that showcases the Augustinian ecclesiastical art collection. There are old paintings of saints and colonial religious art including vestments, *carrosas* and *santos*. Museum hours are from 9 a.m.-12nn and 1-5 p.m. daily. Adults are charged P45, college students P20, high school students P15 and elementary students P10.

MUSEUM-CRAZY/ p.C5

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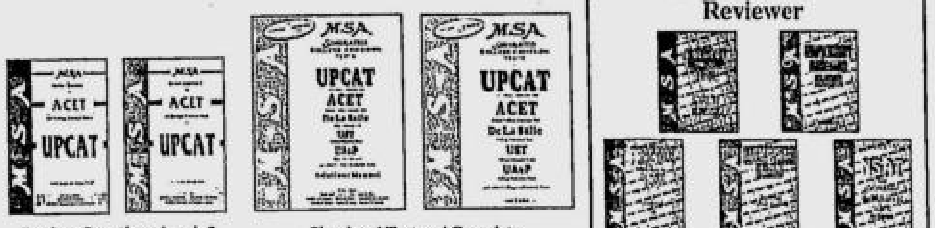

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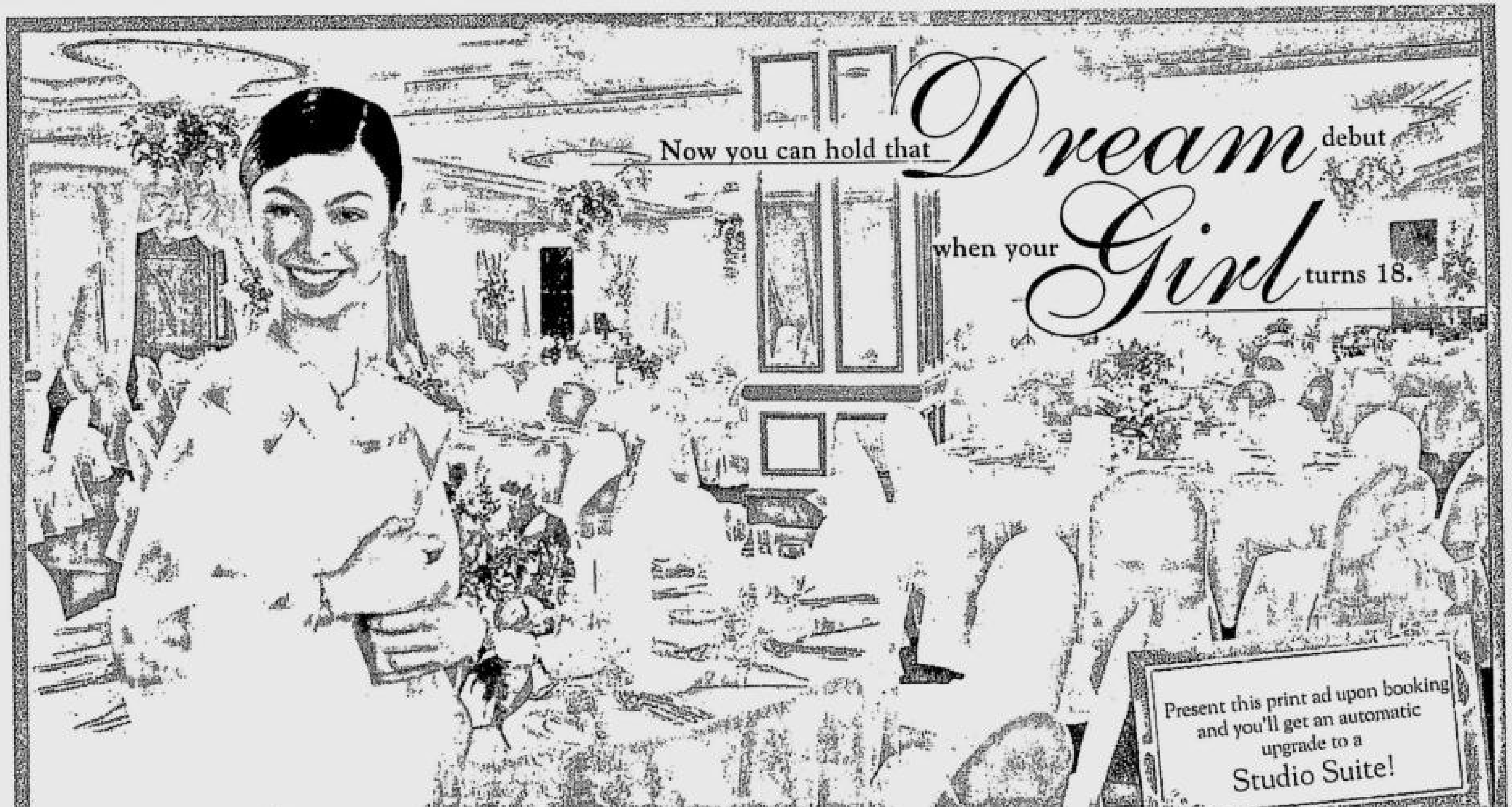

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The Web design guru speaks

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

NEIL Galang is one of the pioneers of digital art in the Philippines (check out his work at www.plasmapimps.com). This Ateneo de Manila University graduate proves that the Filipino can rule the tech scene not just by creating and spreading iloveyou viruses. Galang does not aim to be the next tech god on Forbes Fortune 500. He only wants to put up a school.

Define your art.

Basically it's anything, everything digital.

Which do you enjoy the most?

I love digital photography, *'yung* digital photo collage where I really started.

How did you discover your love for art?

I was 5 years old when my mom taught me how to draw.

What inspires you?

What inspires me is a vision of the reaction of the people when they see my work. *Sa trabaho 'yung* source of inspiration *ko, sabihin mo nang* corny, *ay si* God...*'yung* divine intervention *niya* when (I have a) designer's or writer's block.

What do you consider your ultimate masterpiece?

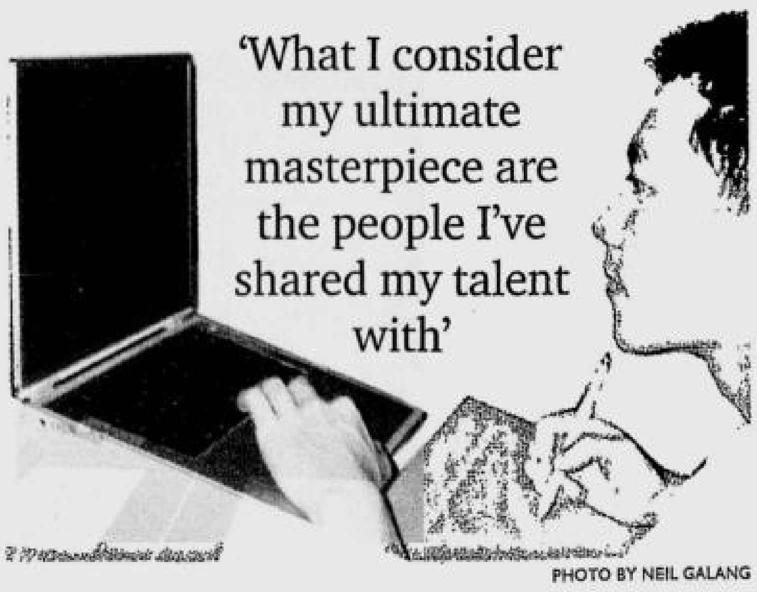
Deep inside, what I consider my ultimate masterpiece—but I'm not claiming that I'm the mentor—are the people I've shared my talent with. I taught video to JV and Kat, *gumagawa na sila ng* independent films. *Du'n ako sumasaya. 'Yung mga naging* under sa akin *nu'ng* creative director *ako.* With the little stuff that I taught and *'yung nagagawa nila ngayon is talagang* wow! *'Yan na ang pinakanakakataba ng puso ko.*

What's your highest artistic goal?

To share with as many people *'yung alam ko.* My ultimate goal *siguro is 'yung* school *na nga,* plus *siyempre mag*-flourish *'yung* business *ko—'yung* balance *ng dalawa.*

What does the young or new art scene need?

Pagkakaroon ng wit and story or substance.



'What I consider my ultimate masterpiece are the people I've shared my talent with'

PHOTO BY NEIL GALANG

How has art changed your life?

Siguro lahat. Unang-una, siya ang nagpapakain sa akin. Pangalawa, mas nagiging-strong *ka* as a person *kasi* when you do something *na binuhusan mo ng dugo, pawis at puso, tapos may magde*-diss, you have to be strong, to be humble to accept criticism. *Natuto din ako na maging* steady and more open to people, to accept them and their art.

E-mail the author at tam_margera@hotmail.com

The shape of things to come

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

AT 23, Ronald Salazar is already making waves in the arts scene. Last year, the University of Santo Tomas fine arts product won first prize in the sculpture category of the Art Association of the Philippines annual art competition, an unexpected victory over much older and formidable opponents.

He and his work were also featured in the 2000 calendar of the Development Bank of the Philippines. Right now he is holding his first solo exhibit entitled "Puzzles of Broken Bottles" at the Alliance Francaise.

Ronald wasn't always into sculpture however. Since he was a kid, he had been into drawing and painting. Putting his talent to good use, he sold his first charcoal portrait when he was in second year high school and worked briefly for a confectionery company designing labels. Over the years he has joined and won in several national and inter-school painting contests.

Two years ago, he developed a fascination for transparent, luminous bottles, and it was then that he started to make sculptures made of broken wine bottles, which he sources from restaurants and junk shops.

"I found it hard to establish my own style in painting since there are so many painters already, so I ventured into sculpting. As far as I know, I'm the only one who uses broken bottles as a style," he says.

"Sculpting is also more demanding than painting," he explains. He holds out his hands, and sure enough, there are a number of cuts from handling all that broken glass. Since he also uses steel in his works, he also had to learn to weld metal together, and he points out some parts of his arms that had been burned. Of course, it helps that he has a supportive family, and from time to time his beaming mother joins us to point out the marks on their living room floor from all that welding and painting.

Making sculptures takes a lot of time. For his solo exhibit, Ronald spent six months working on the seven works on display. His eyes light up when he describes the biggest piece he has finished so far—an 11-ft crucifix made of steel, polyester resin, and of course, broken glass, a masterpiece which took him three months. His dream piece however, is to make something "larger-than-life, like a monument."

But to create his dream magnum opus, he must exert more effort.

"Artists are lazy by nature, we have our moods and temperaments, but we need to be more patient, to have more discipline," he says. But he also makes it a point to take care of his health.

"I make it a point to eat and sleep at the right time, because some artists are notorious for skipping meals, " he says proudly.

"Puzzles of Broken Bottles" runs until April 30 at the Alliance Francaise Manille Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati.

Digital 'magician' wants to be known as an artist

By Tiffany L. Limsico
2bU! Correspondent

JOSE Illenberger is a senior graphic designer at K2 Interactive, a locally-based IT-firm with branches in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. Illenberger's best work is showcased in an ever-changing website—www.redberger.com. Version 2 of the website, The Preaching Season, is a fusion of two religions—east meets west—and features intriguing links such as Confession, Penance, Forgiveness and, of course, Salvation.

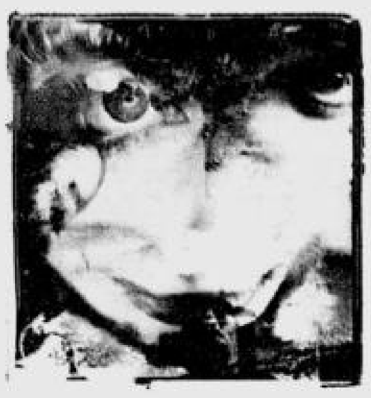
The 25-year-old man behind the digital magic is better known as Berger.

Define your art.

Digital art. Mostly I use software to produce my art, mostly collages and drawings. A combination of manual and digital art.

How did you discover your love for art?

When I was around 9, my mom bought my sister some instructional books on drawing, which she lent me. I got interested in drawing. In elementary, I joined poster-making contests and got encouragement from my art teacher. The seed was developed (and) I took up Fine Arts in the University of the Philippines.



What is your inspiration?

Sometimes, I just experiment. Painters just sit in front of a blank canvas, start sketching and, after awhile, (the idea) comes to them. It's like that with me as well.

What is your ultimate masterpiece?

A combination of my work and my love for doing digital art. When I got involved in computers in college, I learned Photoshop and surfing the Internet. The guy who taught me both showed me websites of artists. I thought it would be a good idea to come up with that sort of a personal gallery. *Doon din na*-encourage *'yung* idea *sa akin na maging* Web designer. In college, my medium was purely analog, mostly paint and pencil. When I was taught to work on computers, the shift from analog to digital began. When I learned Web design, I made my own site. That would be what I consider my ultimate masterpiece.

What sets your generation of artists apart from those before you?

This generation has more choices in terms of media, the addition of technology. We have opportunities to make art through technology, not just through traditional mediums.

What's your highest artistic goal?

There is a perception that digital art is made merely by pressing a computer button. My stand is that the computer does not do all the work. It is merely a medium, like watercolor. Even if watercolor is a good medium, if you don't know how to use it, it will be useless and will result in trash. My personal goal is to make people recognize digital art as genuine art. In Cultural Center of the Philippines Awards, there is no category for digital art. You can see the elitism and bias against digital art. If one day, someone becomes a National Artist for digital art, it will be the greatest contribution my friends and I can make—the recognition of the medium, the legitimization of our field.

What do you think of the young art scene?

Right now, a handful of people are really good at what they do. But a lot of digital artists merely copy. There's a need for originality.

How has art changed your life?

There's a different kind of satisfaction in producing your own work. Digital art has given me many opportunities such as a well-paying job. I can go to work anytime I want, enjoy a lot of perks. I love my work.

Through Jay's eyes

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

IN HIS studio, Jay Javier sits at his desk, surrounded by his pictures. He tinkers with a camera, one of the many he has collected through the years—some 60 of them, many coming from Russia and acquired from e-Bay. Many times, he finds himself buying broken ones for the fun and challenge of fixing them up. When you open his closet, unlike the former First Lady Imelda Marcos, one would find cameras instead of shoes.

This young man has been in the photography business for more than 10 years. A graduate of Communications Arts of the University of Santo Tomas, he started dabbling with the art in high school, saving his allowance to buy his first enlarger. In college, he was a staff photographer of The Varsitarian, the UST school paper. After graduation, he started out as a magazine photographer-writer for Mr. & Ms, which used to be the parent publication of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER. He soon discovered that he preferred the more controlled and creative side of photography rather than photojournalism. After an apprenticeship to Wig Tysmans, he went on to build his own studio.

Define your art.

I would like to be classified under fine art photography, because it is in itself a very broad field. Fine art photography won't pay the rent, so every now and then I try to incorporate the elements of fine art photography into commercial photography. I do mostly portraits and press releases of show-biz people from ABS-CBN, (whose studio) is very near. When I have the opportunity, I'd inject something quirky, rather than submit straightforward pictures. I like to incorporate ancient techniques; I would resurrect one ancient method in printing or in lighting and then use it on a contemporary work.

What is your inspiration?

Classic photography. I regret the fact that TCM (Turner Classic Movies) is not on cable TV anymore. It is already a 24-hour cartoon channel. It used to be that when I turned on the TV and tune in to TNT, I would see the likes of Jean Harlow or Clark Cable in glorious film noir (black-and-white). Now, when I turn it on at night I'd only see Scooby Doo.

On his masterpieces:

(About the photo of a woman with curlers) She was just being made up. I saw her rollers and thought they looked funny, so I told her to sit in front of the light. Of course, I added some elements to the straightforward black-and-white, like hand-applied color... When you look at the photograph, you'd think it was taken in the '50s. But it was actually taken in 1998 or 1999.

(On the photo of the kid) It's like documentary work. Usually my clients are musicians. When we go out, I'd step out of the hotel, go around with a small camera and shoot. That kid, for example, I saw him in Negros or Iloilo or Ilocos. Apparently, old lenses give you the texture. When the photo came out, it really looked old, so to give it extra spice, I colored it with dyes. In that photo, I used McCormick dyes, so it's quite easy to get away with some techniques using materials that you could get from the grocery, literally.

What do you think sets your generation of artists apart from those who came before you?

The new generation of artists is more MTV-oriented and gadget-oriented. Those who came before us say that they'd rather make books. For those who came after us, they'd rather work for glossy magazines. This is a personal view: I think our generation is in a limbo. For example, what I do will be appreciated more if I post it abroad in a foreign mailing list; the reply is positive. Here, if I show this around (gestures to his favorite works), they don't even elicit a second glance.

What is your highest artistic goal?

I don't really have any lofty goals. The height of satisfaction for me is to get what I want. I'm not really after going places and getting published. It's more like a personal thing; if I'm satisfied with my work, I'm satisfied with it. Of course, it is also flattering if someone offers me an exhibition. I was included in (the book) "Eros Pinoy" and there were only three photographers there.

What do you think does the young art scene need?

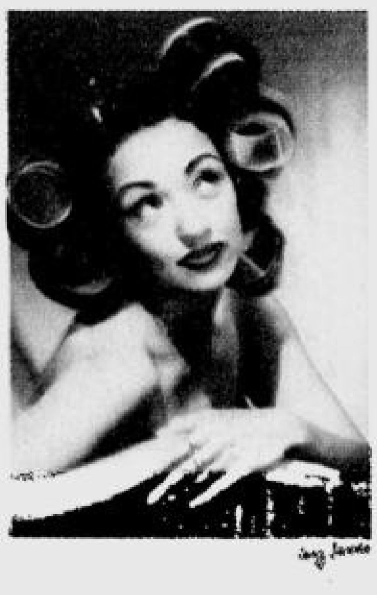
In general, education. Not just the current generation. I guess this is reflective of training; it goes beyond the parents. [An example] would be the destruction of the art deco jai-alai building. Those who had it destroyed are old enough to be the grandfathers of today's teenagers.

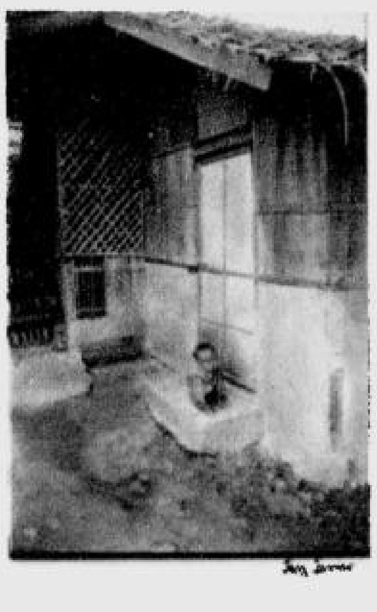
How has your art changed your life?

Let's just say that doing these things keeps me from going crazy. When you start photography you have full of ideas. You have the time, effort and resources. Eventually, if photography becomes your source of income, you would notice that when all the problems come in, you would have less time to do all the other things that you'd prefer to do. Sometimes, your mind and your body become tired, so you really run out of ideas. So every now and then when we become rested, we do these non-paying, non-revenue-generating photographs.

Jay Javier's studio is located at 25 Scout Tuazon St., QC. You may reach him at 373-7057.

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph

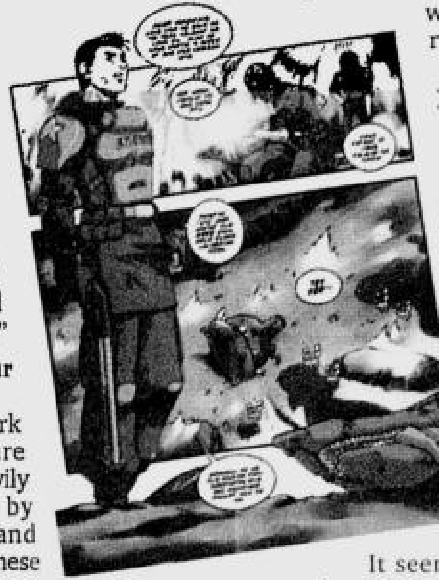




Comic book art gets a dose of young blood

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico
2bu! Correspondent

ELMER Damaso, 26, is an AB Visual Communication graduate of UP Diliman and cartoonist-illustrator of a local comics called Culture Crash for two years now. He illustrates and writes the à la-"Lupin" type of comedy and adventure cartoon series titled "Cat's Trail."



Define your art.

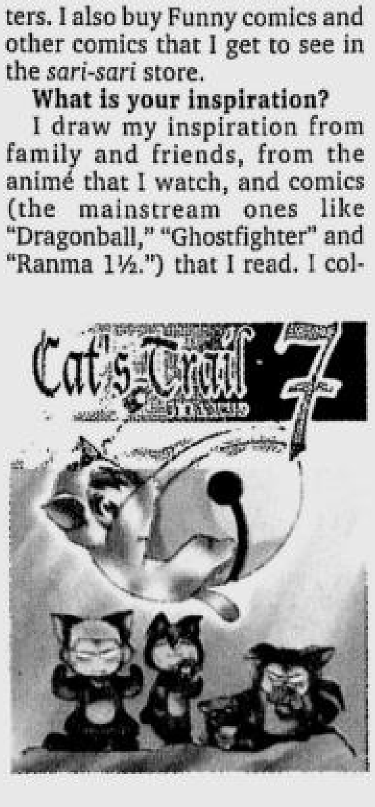
My artwork in "Culture Crash" is heavily influenced by animé and manga (Japanese comics). My story is a medieval comedy, so the look of my characters closely resemble animé although we use Tagalog in the dialogue.

How did you discover your love for art?

Since I was 4 or 5 years old, my favorites have been watching cartoons and reading comics (like Walt Disney). That's when I started to doodle the characters. I also buy Funny comics and other comics that I get to see in the *sari-sari* store.

What is your inspiration?

I draw my inspiration from family and friends, from the animé that I watch, and comics (the mainstream ones like "Dragonball," "Ghostfighter" and "Ranma 1½.") that I read. I collect comics, I buy a lot of movies and audio CDs and toys.



What do you consider your ultimate masterpiece?

I consider "Cat's Trail" my ultimate masterpiece because I enjoy reading the story and I am also happy with the fans' feedback through e-mails. I have stories which are not released yet.

What sets your generation of artists apart from those who came before?

The art style. Many kids prefer animé cartoons. Before, you only get to see the classical style of artwork. It seemed like there was only one art style—realistic to semi-realistic.

What's your highest artistic goal?

My goal is simple. I'm not after the fortune although I would be happy if I get rich because of my work (laughs). I just want people to appreciate my work, my effort, and I've partly achieved that in "Cat's Trail."

What does the young art scene need?

Talent for drawing cannot be dictated by any material. For me, you only need inspiration. Talent, skill and perseverance are more important to improve the artwork. Originality is also a big issue because sometimes some people brand us as copycats. You can still develop your style as time goes by.

How has art changed your life?

Art is a big part of my life. I have learned to accept criticism from people. Because sometimes there are people who say that we are being unnationalistic because of our art. In a way, I also pick up a lot of insights from the cartoons that I apply in my life. Right now I can say that comic book art is my source of income. Artists like us struggle for acceptance in this kind of business.

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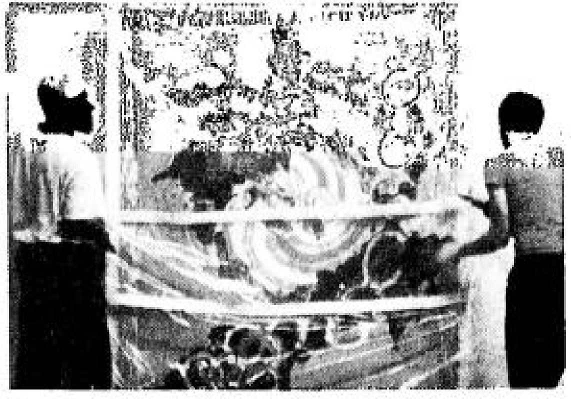

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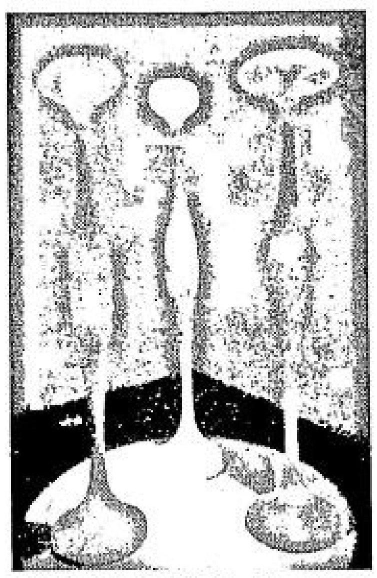
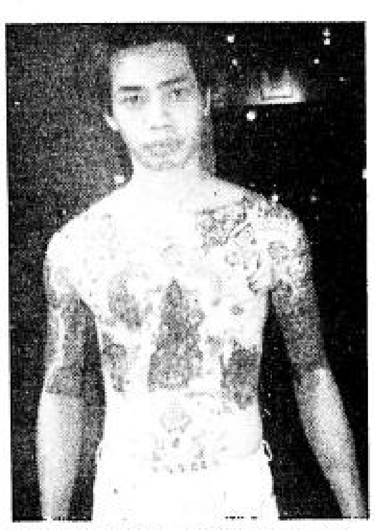


VISUALS, BABY! Lights up at the "Sixties Now" exhibit



TIT FOR TAT, TOO! Body art takes to the streets.

> *We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and stand on top of the mountains free within ourselves.*
>
> **—Langston Hughes**

Tim Yap

THIS must be the principle behind Singapore's newfound focus on young art. Ever since authorities announced their vision of making the sensational city state the center of arts in Asia, the art community has moved toward the realization of that goal. In theatrical, visual, dance, music and alternative arts, this city aims to get an A, with the youth at the forefront of the action.

"Take Art," the youth arts festival which goes on till the end of April, is an exuberant experience designed to make arts fun and accessible to all. From Cirque du Soleil's production of "Alegria" to Singapore Repertory's "Honk! The Ugly Duckling," to productions of "Giselle" and art and sculpture exhibits, the focus is shifting to the youth.

On reaching Singapore, I had Orchard Road plastered on my head. But that was not what the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) had in mind (though they did give us shopping hounds time to visit the district much later). In the next few days, we found ourselves immersed, not in sales, but in activities to nourish the soul. Art was thriving in New Asia.

Past, present and future

To give us a good view of the past, we went to the Singapore Art Museum for "Sixties Now," an exhibit of everything in the psychedelic era. It was during this time that Singapore started to realize its potential. The exhibit showcased a Singaporean collector's '60s memorabilia.

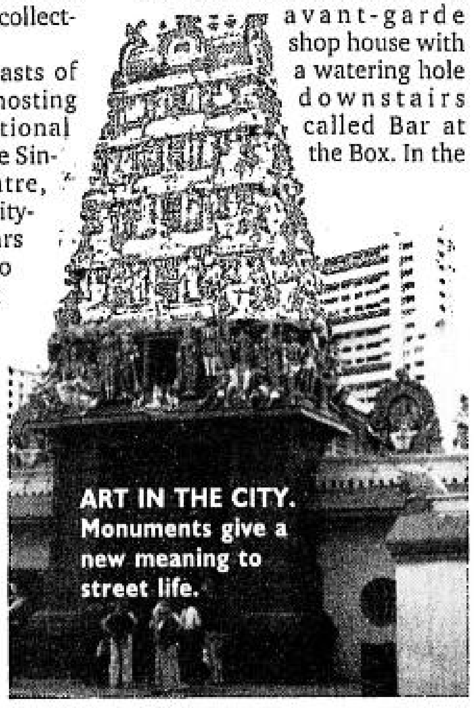
Today's Singapore boasts of well-developed venues hosting both local and international groups. We dropped by the Singapore Repertory Theatre, housed in an Eastwood City-like compound of hip bars and restos designed to make theater-going a part of any urbanite's lifestyle. We also witnessed a stylized production of "Macbeth" by the Brisbane-based theater company, Zen Zen Zo.

Next stop was what they called the Sculpture Square, an arts center devoted to three-dimensional art in the lush environs of a restored century-old Peranakan church and boarding house. Here we witnessed the "Dilation" works in metal and stone by Singaporean artist Tan Teng Kee. What impressed me more than his works was that students of all ages would hang out in the galleries and just sketch and doodle the day away, proof that art was communicating well with the young and old.

Club Street, another of my favorites in Singapore (for obvious reasons), is one of the most exciting new areas for people from all walks of life looking for remarkable architecture.

Art icons

In this street lies The Box, an avant-garde shop house with a watering hole downstairs called Bar at the Box. In the day, hipsters would hang out at the gallery with its three floors of edgy, modern art. At night, the Bar goes into chill mode serving, aside from martinis and cocktails, a mixed menu of trip hop, nu groove, jazz, bass and bossa nova. Later in the evening, deep Latin or disco rules. How's that for art "straight from the hip"?



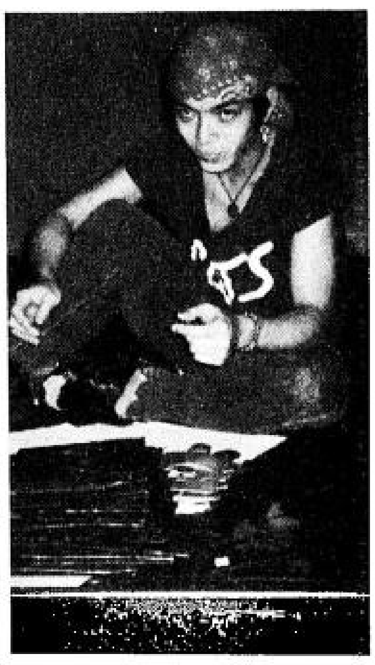
ART IN THE CITY. Monuments give a new meaning to street life.

Our tour brought us to the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, the biggest in Asia at 11,460 sq ft, an establishment dedicated to education, advanced print and paper making, and the exhibition of quality works of art by prominent international artists. It is like a Megamall of international artists. Frank Stella prints are showcased this month, with more to come in the next few months.

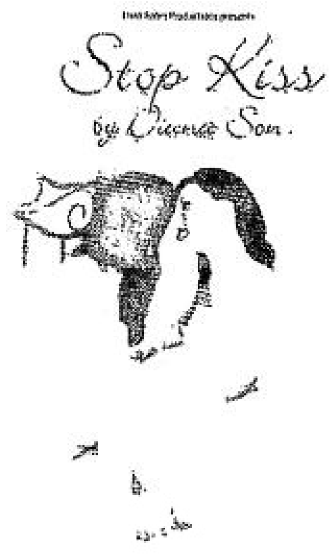
We hopped on to two gigantic silver durian-shaped structures next. These were going to be their "Esplanade—theaters by the bay." The structures stand on 6 hectares of prime waterfront land.

Singapore hopes this will serve as some sort of an "arts icon" for their country. With state-of-the-art studios, recital and rehearsal venues, a concert hall that can seat up to 1,600, and a 2,000-seat theater equipped with all the high-tech stuff performance lovers would die for, I could only watch its construction, mouth agape with amazement at what is to come.

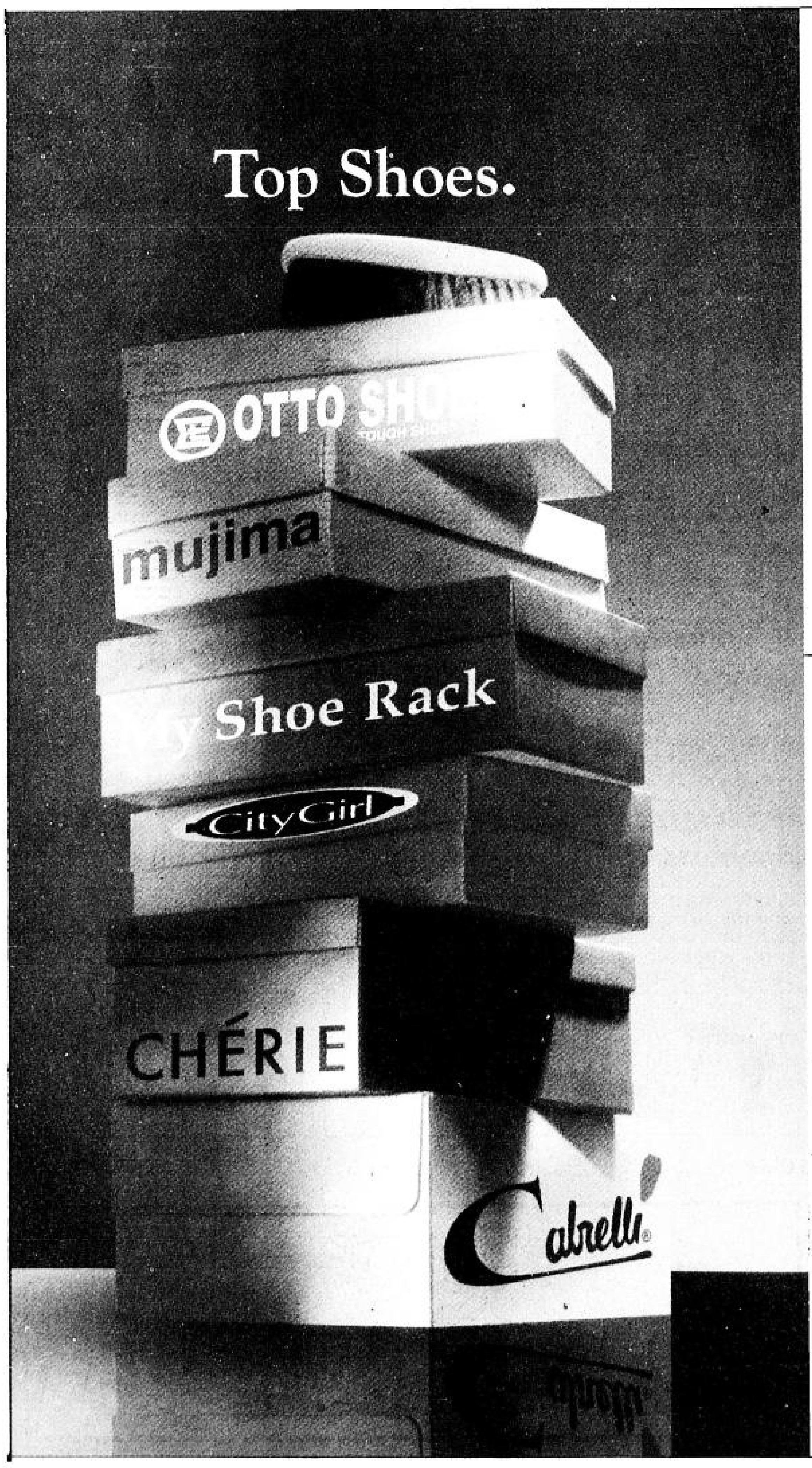
For more info on shows and youth art, visit www.visitsingapore.com/takeart



SCRATCHING the art surface.



GIRL POWER IN THEATER. Is Singapore opening up?



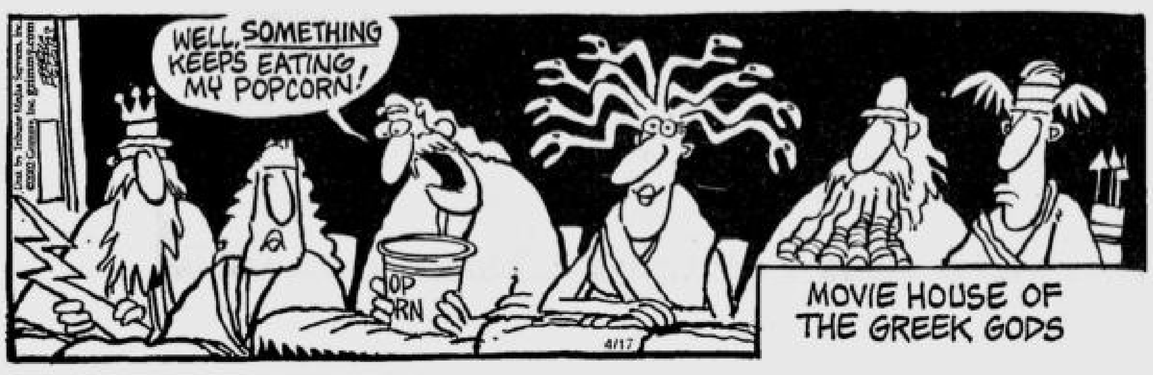
Top Care.

Those who know shoes know how to keep them looking good.

KIWI
World Leader in Shoe Care

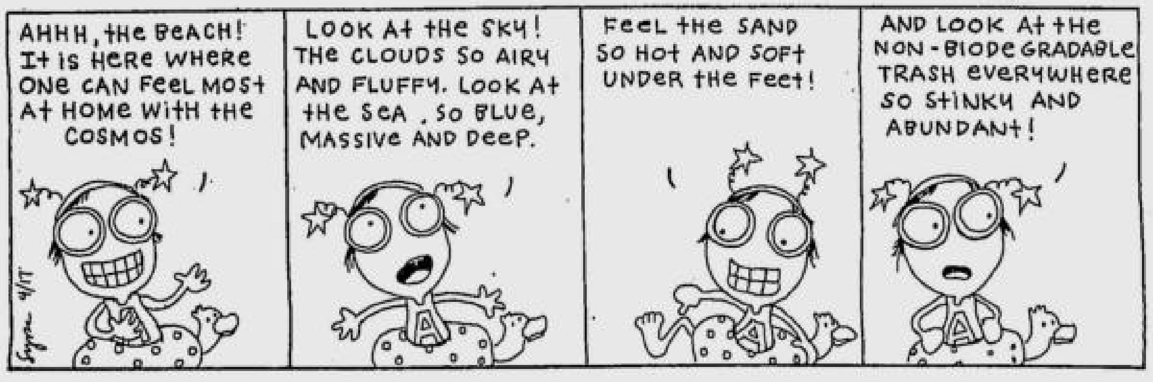
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WELL, SOMETHING KEEPS EATING MY POPCORN!
POP CORN
MOVIE HOUSE OF THE GREEK GODS
4/17

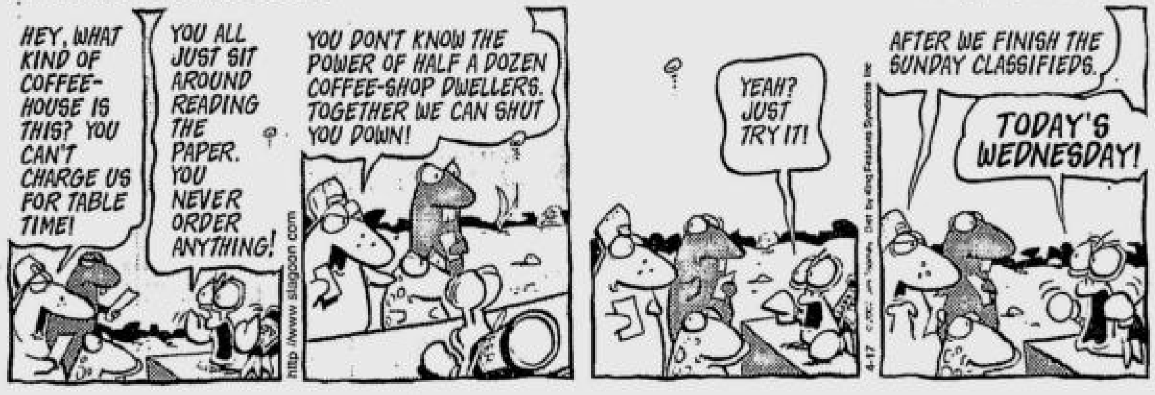
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AHHH, the BEACH! It is HERE WHERE ONE CAN FEEL MOST At HOME WITH THE COSMOS!
LOOK At the SKY! THE CLOUDS SO AIRY AND FLUFFY. LOOK At the SEA, SO BLUE, MASSIVE AND DEEP.
FEEL the SAND SO Hot AND SOFT UNDER the Feet!
AND LOOK At the NON-BIODEGRADABLE TRASH EVERYWHERE SO STINKY AND ABUNDANT!

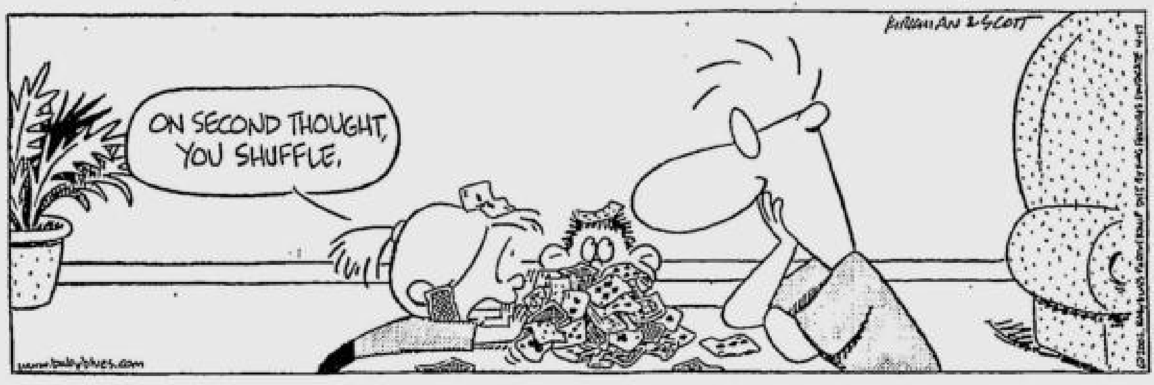
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, WHAT KIND OF COFFEE-HOUSE IS THIS? YOU CAN'T CHARGE US FOR TABLE TIME!
YOU ALL JUST SIT AROUND READING THE PAPER. YOU NEVER ORDER ANYTHING!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE POWER OF HALF A DOZEN COFFEE-SHOP DWELLERS. TOGETHER WE CAN SHUT YOU DOWN!
YEAH? JUST TRY IT!
AFTER WE FINISH THE SUNDAY CLASSIFIEDS.
TODAY'S WEDNESDAY!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


KIRKMAN & SCOTT
ON SECOND THOUGHT, YOU SHUFFLE.
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikita Khruschev, William Holden, Sugar Ray Leonard

Happy Birthday: You will be creative in your self-expression and therefore will attract many friends and a lot of attention. You help those less fortunate and are likely to meet potential partners through the organizations you join. Put your time and effort into renovating your home but be sure you have the approval of those you live with . Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 31, 33, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Enjoy the company of friends today. The more you do with others the more information you will pick up. Travel plans should be made even if they are only for a short trip.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be intent on doing well at work or at any project that you have a real interest in. Your dedication and loyalty to those you work with will be enhanced by your unique ideas .

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't hold yourself back just because you are emotional today. Put your personal life on the back burner and get involved in creative endeavors.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There may be secrets that you have to deal with. Don't tell anyone what you are really thinking. Your emotional outlook will be changeable today so it's best not to make a move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be a little fickle regarding partnerships today. Try not to lead someone on if you aren't interested. You will discover a new connection that could turn into a great friendship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have what it takes to get ahead today. Focus on work and money and don't let anything distract you. Sudden changes involving friends will leave you disheartened.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have what it takes to get ahead today. Emotional problems with relatives or colleagues are evident. Do not let others hold you back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Problems with older relatives or friends may lead to added responsibilities. Be prepared to do whatever is necessary in order to deal with personal matters quickly and efficiently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can get ahead financially today but if you let your personal encounters cloud your vision you may not make the right choices. Moderation will be the key to your financial ventures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have the discipline to finish what you start, but don't work too hard or you'll be tired and stressed. Stay put, work on the projects that don't require a great deal of travel or communication.

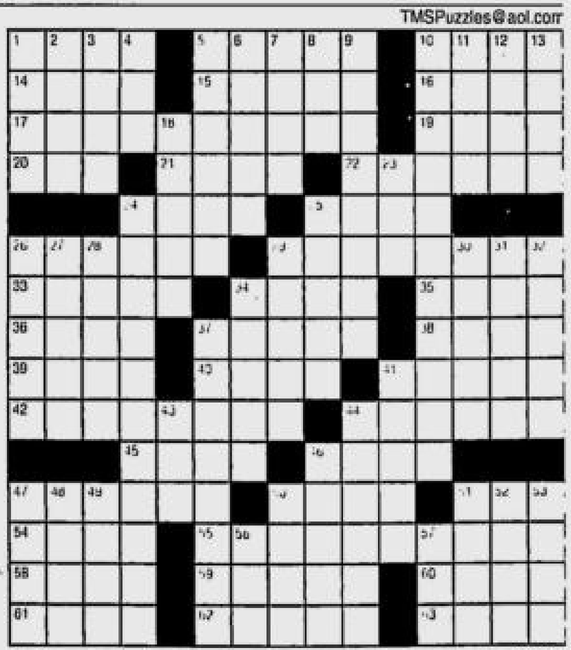
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your heart into doing the things that you enjoy the most. If you follow your dreams you will succeed. The greatest satisfaction will come from doing what you know in your heart is best.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An older relative may need your assistance, however, don't let him or her bully you into doing more than you can handle. You must look out for your own interests. Invest in yourself, your home and your future.

Birthday Baby: Success will be important to you. You will surround yourself with people who can help you get ahead. You will always be looking and listening for new ideas that will help you achieve the power you desire.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

4/17/02

ACROSS
1 Shape
5 Tender spots
10 Infant
14 Mayberry kid
15 Fountain of coins
16 __ Bator, Mongolia
17 Mulish
19 For both sexes
20 Compass dir.
21 Morays
22 Glacial ridges
24 Fill the hold
25 Cheongsam feature
26 Slow movers
29 Serial parts
33 Rings around the moon
34 Source of dietary fiber
35 Killer whale
36 Ugandan Idi
37 "The Lost Galleon" poet
38 Turn soil
39 Intertwine
40 Hematite and galena
41 Preview the answers
42 Appreciated
44 Sounds the alarm
45 Old
46 Rogers from the neighborhood
47 Houston team
50 Site of Napoleon's first exile
51 Exist
54 Tab's target
55 Having feet turned inward
58 Point of eating?
59 Inciter
60 __ of Cleves
61 Copied
62 Prepares to lay eggs
63 I've __ had!

DOWN
1 Watch pockets
2 Unnamed work
3 Needle
4 Actor Gibson
5 Spirited mounts
6 Pope's fanon
7 Ohio team
8 Night before
9 Bench-jockey's location
10 Like beavers?
11 Soothing additive
12 1934-35 heavyweight champ
13 Concludes
18 Cures
23 Bro's sib
24 Brave
25 Gaiters
26 Dishonor
27 Titles
28 Elite category
29 Was mistaken
30 Less humid
31 Success in spades
32 Mineral cathartics
34 Revealed
37 Like some yarns?
41 Spotless
43 Star quality
44 Bowers
46 Warships
47 Powell-Loy costar
48 Commit a gaff
49 Manner of speaking
50 Farm produce
51 Top-notch
52 Russo or Descartes
53 1955 James Dean movie, "East of __"
56 Dander
57 Actor Hunter

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	G	■	E	R	S	T	■	B	O	O	S	T
L	A	M	A	■	M	A	C	E	■	E	L	M	E	R
O	M	B	U	D	S	M	A	N	■	R	E	N	E	E
B	I	L	G	E	■	P	L	U	M	E	■	I	K	E
S	L	E	E	V	E	■	P	R	E	F	A	B	■	■
■	■	■	D	I	R	T	■	E	N	T	R	U	S	T
O	N	O	■	T	I	E	R	■	■	■	T	S	A	R
P	A	M	■	O	C	E	A	N	I	A	■	E	M	U
E	D	I	T	■	■	■	G	O	D	S	■	S	E	E
C	A	N	I	N	E	S	■	W	E	I	R	■	■	■
■	■	O	C	U	L	A	R	■	A	M	E	L	I	A
Y	O	U	■	A	D	L	A	I	■	O	W	E	N	S
A	R	S	O	N	■	O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E	S
R	E	L	I	C	■	N	O	R	M	■	R	O	P	E
D	O	Y	L	E	■	S	N	I	P	■	K	I	T	S

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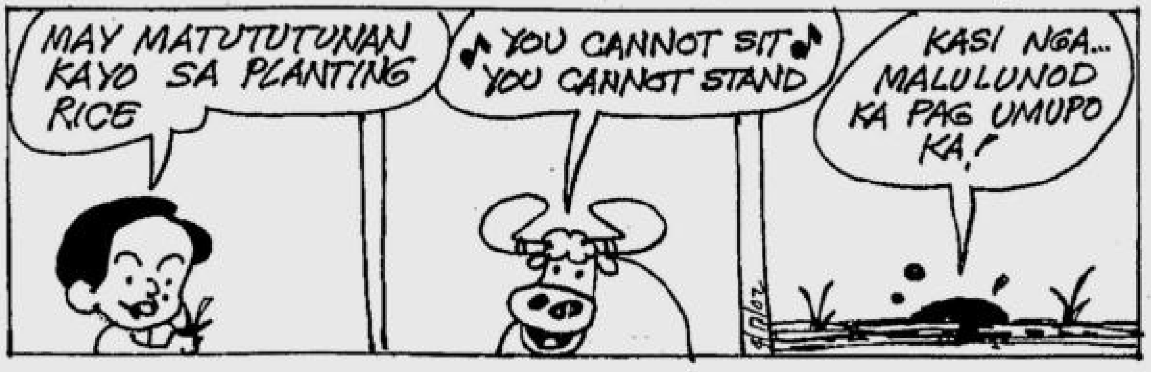
4/17/02

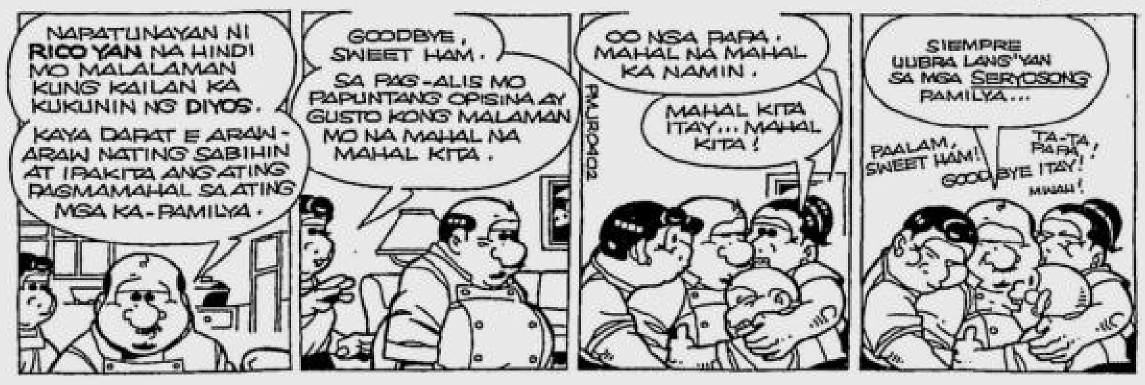
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY MATUTUTUNAN KAYO SA PLANTING RICE
♪ YOU CANNOT SIT ♪ YOU CANNOT STAND
KASI NGA... MALULUNOD KA PAG UMUPO KA!

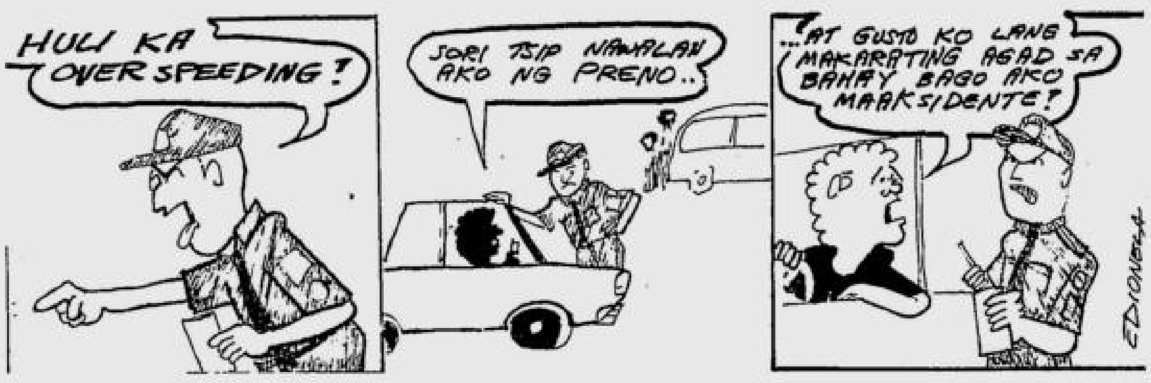
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPATUNAYAN NI RICO YAN NA HINDI MO MALALAMAN KUNG KAILAN KA KUKUNIN NG DIYOS.
KAYA DAPAT E ARAW-ARAW NATING SABIHIN AT IPAKITA ANG ATING PAGMAMAHAL SA ATING MGA KA-PAMILYA.
GOODBYE, SWEET HAM.
SA PAG-ALIS MO PAPUNTANG OPISINA AY GUSTO KONG MALAMAN MO NA MAHAL NA MAHAL KITA.
OO NGA PAPA. MAHAL NA MAHAL KA NAMIN.
MAHAL KITA ITAY... MAHAL KITA!
SIEMPRE UUBRA LANG 'YAN SA MGA SERYOSONG PAMILYA...
PAALAM, SWEET HAM!
GOODBYE ITAY!
TA-TA, PAPA!
MWAH!

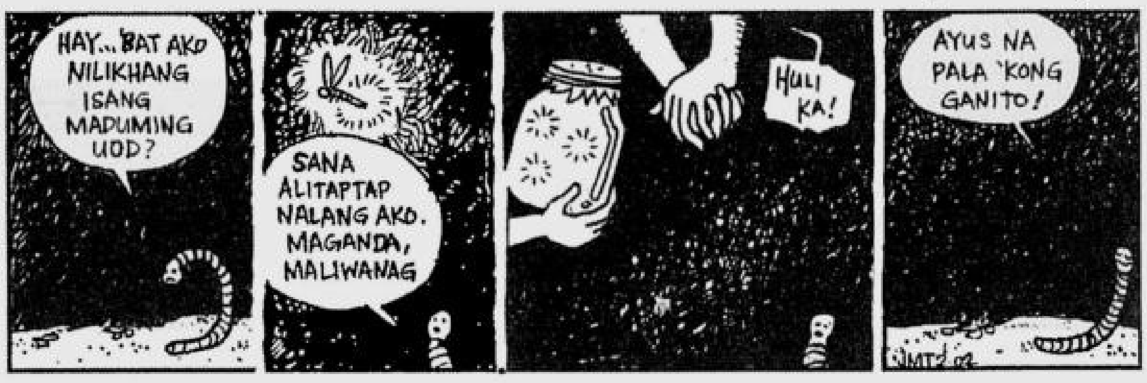
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HULI KA OVERSPEEDING!
SORI TSIP NAWALAN AKO NG PRENO..
...AT GUSTO KO LANG MAKARATING AGAD SA BAHAY BAGO AKO MAAKSIDENTE!
EDIONELA

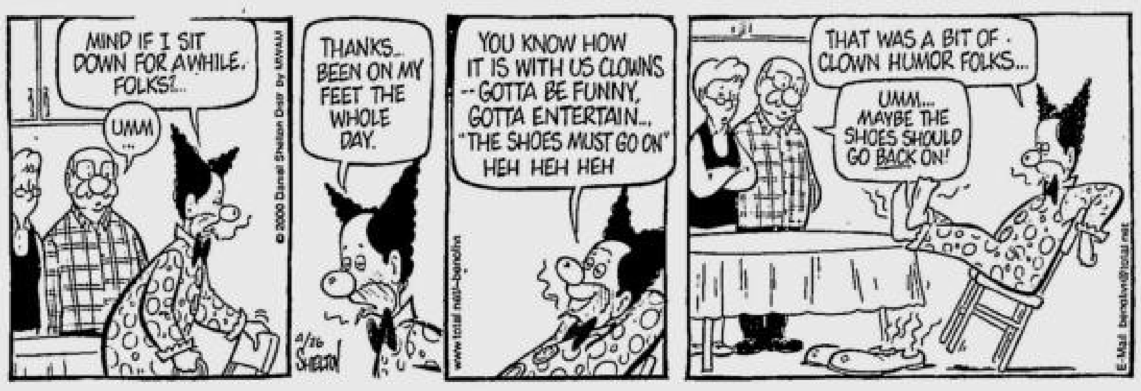
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY... BAT AKO NILIKHANG ISANG MADUMING UOD?
SANA ALITAPTAP NALANG AKO. MAGANDA, MALIWANAG
HULI KA!
AYUS NA PALA 'KONG GANITO!

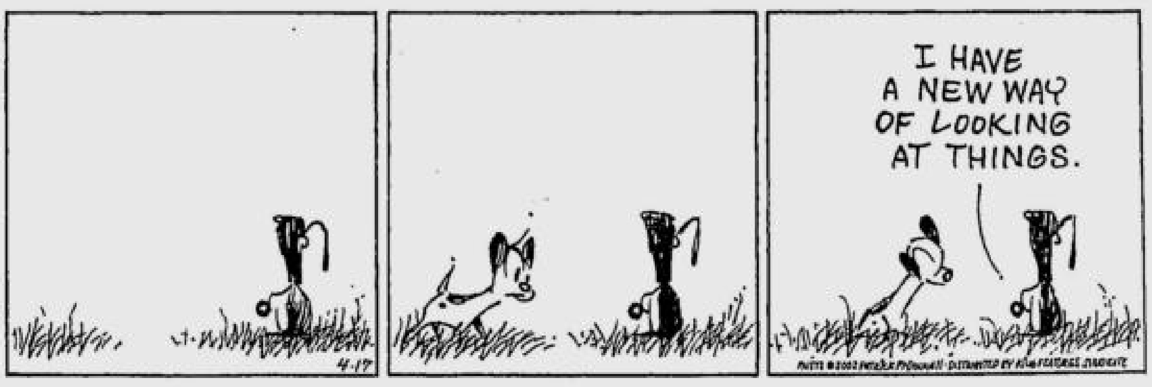
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MIND IF I SIT DOWN FOR AWHILE, FOLKS?...
UMM ...
THANKS.. BEEN ON MY FEET THE WHOLE DAY.
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH US CLOWNS --GOTTA BE FUNNY, GOTTA ENTERTAIN... "THE SHOES MUST GO ON" HEH HEH HEH
THAT WAS A BIT OF CLOWN HUMOR FOLKS...
UMM... MAYBE THE SHOES SHOULD GO BACK ON!

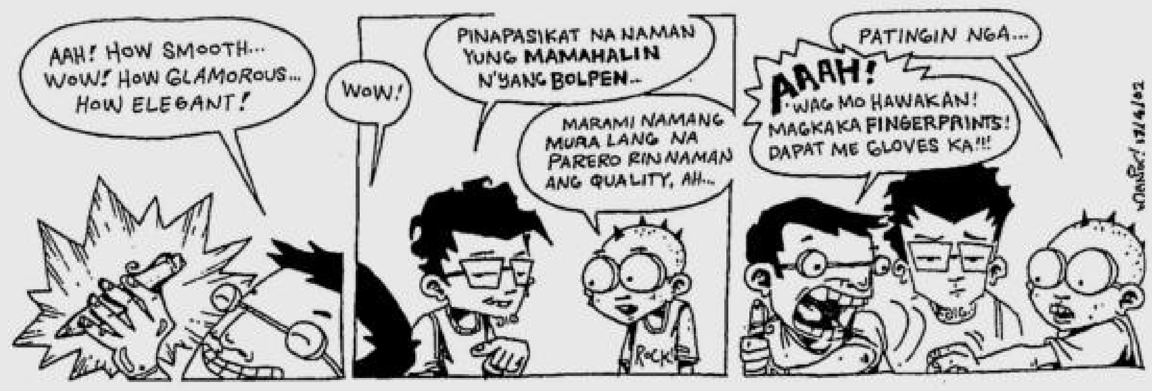
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I HAVE A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.
4-17

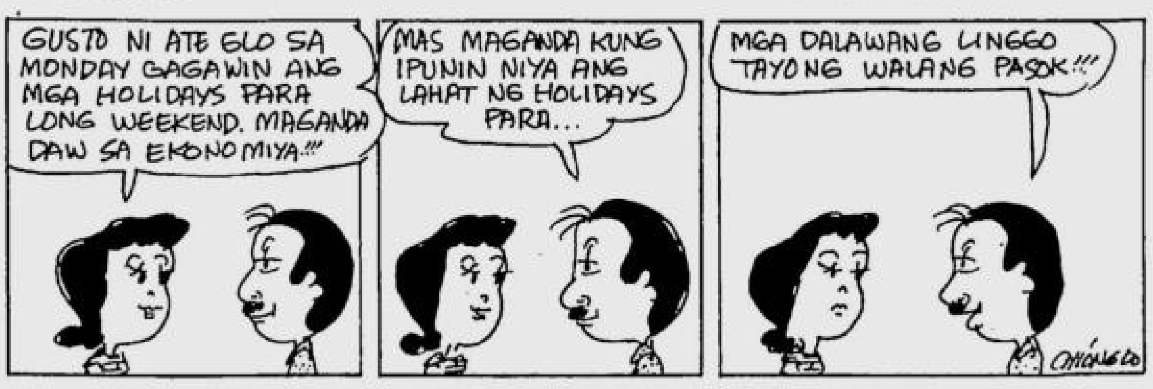
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAH! HOW SMOOTH... WOW! HOW GLAMOROUS... HOW ELEGANT!
WOW!
PINAPASIKAT NA NAMAN YUNG MAMAHALIN N'YANG BOLPEN..
MARAMI NAMANG MURA LANG NA PARERO RIN NAMAN ANG QUALITY, AH...
PATINGIN NGA...
AAAH! 'WAG MO HAWAKAN! MAGKAKA FINGERPRINTS! DAPAT ME GLOVES KA!!!
ROCK!

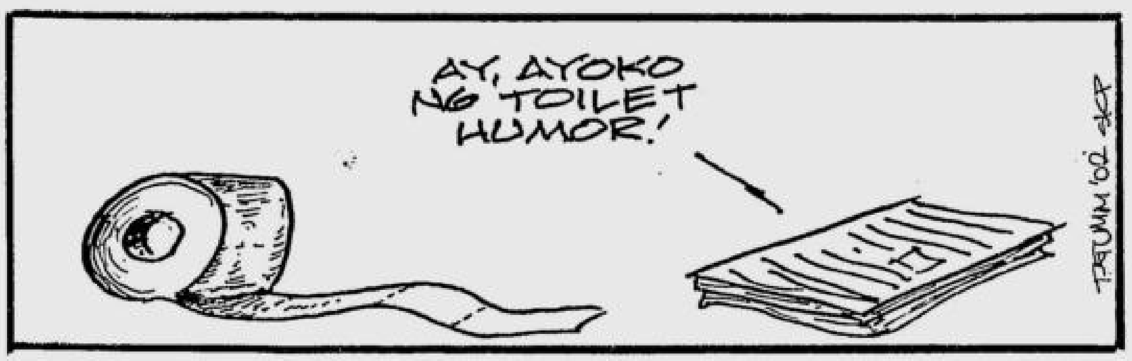
LOVEKNOTS

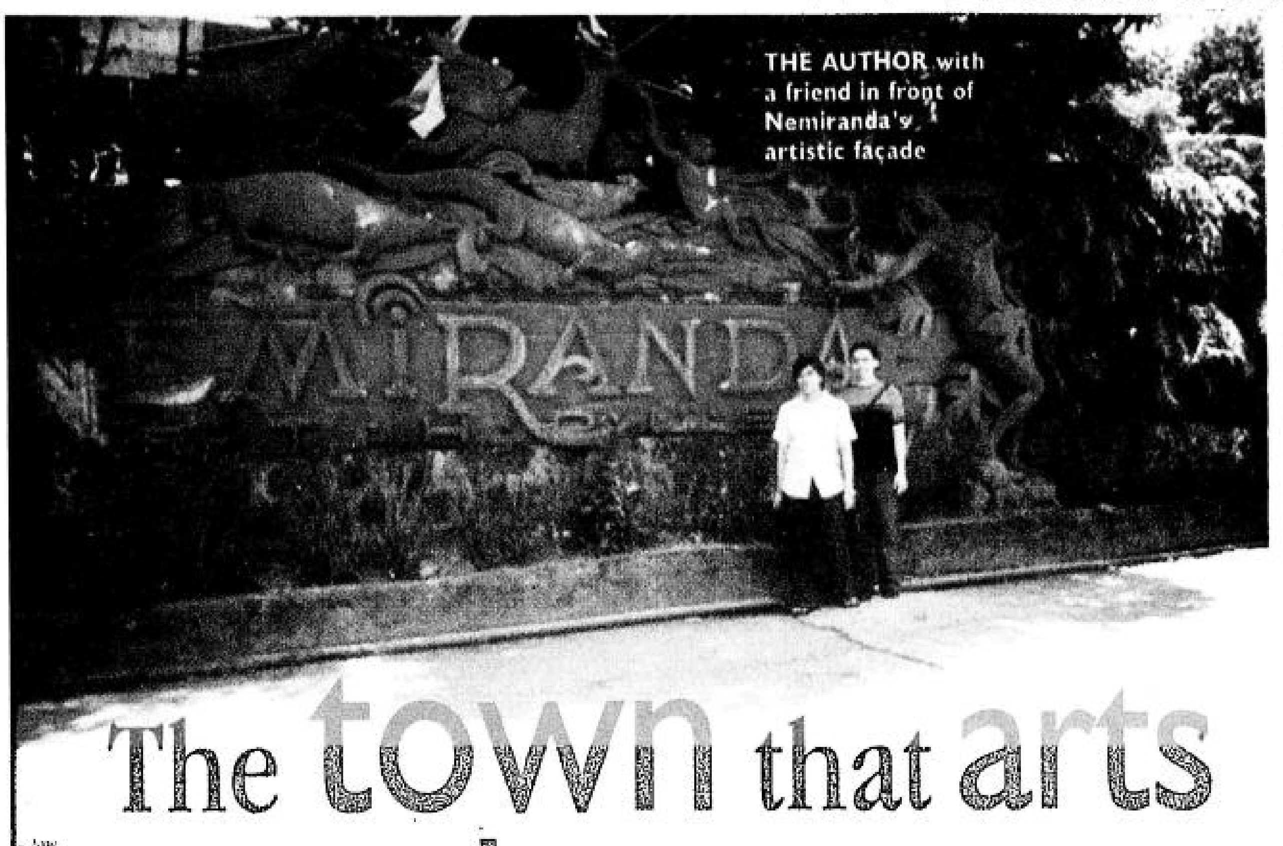
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GUSTO NI ATE GLO SA MONDAY GAGAWIN ANG MGA HOLIDAYS PARA LONG WEEKEND. MAGANDA DAW SA EKONOMIYA!!!
MAS MAGANDA KUNG IPUNIN NIYA ANG LAHAT NG HOLIDAYS PARA...
MGA DALAWANG LINGGO TAYONG WALANG PASOK!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AY, AYOKO NG TOILET HUMOR!
TATUMM '02



THE AUTHOR with a friend in front of Nemiranda's artistic façade

The town that arts and culture built

With its beautiful environment and fresh breeze and its folk artists, Angono stimulates the creative juices of young people

Text and photos by Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

THROUGH ANGONO, one realizes how important it is for today's youth to value his/her culture. One is awed at the paintings on sale on one of its streets. For P4 a tricycle ride, one can have a glimpse of the town's artistry and rich culture, as personified in its favorite son, the late National Artist and muralist Carlos "Botong" Francisco.

I am not a native of Angono, but my love for the arts has given it a special place in my heart.

Angono has several art houses that conduct art workshops during summer. Two that I had a chance to visit were the Blanco Family Academy on Ibañez Street and the Nemiranda Arthouse at the Doña Justa Subdivision.

The Blanco Academy started with only 14 students in 1991. Today it has almost 300. Students come from QC, Mandaluyong, Bicol and even Palawan just to enrol in the Academy. Classes are held Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-12 nn for morning sessions. The school charges P200 for 10 sessions. In those 10 sessions are classes on basic drawing, pastel, oil painting and advanced painting.

ANGONO Artists Association with current president Michael P. Blanco (extreme right)

BLANCO students in an outdoor sketching in *wawa*

Outdoor painting

The students are also taught the art of papier-mâché. To further stimulate their artistic abilities, they are brought outdoors. The usual destinations are the Angono mountains and the bayside that the townspeople call *wawa*. The students on their first day are toured around the town to familiarize themselves not only with art, but also with the town's colorful history. Their very own works on these subjects will be exhibited in the town plaza later. Handbooks are also given to provide students an overview of the lessons.

Michael P. Blanco, son of the master of Filipino genre painting Jose V. Blanco and current president of the Angono Artist Association, said, "You don't really have to be good in this field, and there's no such thing as you're too old to learn. As long as you are interested, patient and dedicated, you could learn how to draw and excel in the field of arts. Some would come back and tell us they won several competitions already. That in itself is already rewarding."

LIZA Florendo, a Blanco Family Academy instructor

Not too far from the Blancos is the Nemiranda Arthouse and Atelier Galleries. It is also the home of the Miranda family's artwork. The paintings on display portray the lives of the people of Angono. The place is also a venue for symposia, exhibits, competitions and art classes.

During my visit, art classes were being held. Katrina Miranda, the eldest daughter of Nemesio Miranda Jr., one of Angono's most respected figurative artists, and principal of the Nemiranda art school, was conducting the lessons together with Rommel Tuazon.

Her siblings—Paul Greco, Don and Sarah Jane—and Nemesio himself helped in the teaching. The workshop fee is P4,500 and runs for eight sessions. The classes are held from 9-11 a.m. around the sanctuary of trees, birds and ornamental plants. The peaceful atmosphere and the fresh breeze set the right mood for Nemiranda's students.

Free hand

Two college students, both from Rizal, were on their second day of workshop at Nemiranda and they painted with eagerness on their faces.

Mary Ann Mendoza, 18, enrolled in the workshop to hone her skills in rendering and shading. An advertising student from UST, she believes she can help the society by expressing herself through art—free-hand art that is. She emphasized "free hand" because she lamented that young people like her easily fall into the lure of technology. She said her professors at UST constantly complained of the bad effects of the computer age on art. "*Kapag ginawa mo* manually, *doon lang lumalabas ang totoong* personality *ng isang tao*—through his/her artworks," she said.

Seventeen-year-old Katrina Ocampo, an architecture student also from UST, explained why she joined the workshop. "*Meron kaming dalawang* foci under architecture," she said. "*Isang* mechanical, *isang* free hand. So my free-hand skills are enhanced by attending workshops like this."

Most of the students said the workshop was intimate and serious. They agreed that the ambience of Angono put them in the right mood for creativity.

There are other artistic stimuli. The perfect place to eat is the Balaw-balaw, owned by artist Perdigon Vocalan. The food is great and the people are full of smiles. Angono is also known for its famous caves that hold ancient petroglyphs, discovered by Botong Francisco.

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@hotmail.com

Museum-crazy in the city

From page C1

Welcome change

Another stop would be the Metropolitan Museum of Art located at the Bangko Sentral Complex. One can find artworks of Filipino and international artists, some of which on loan from different museums abroad. You can also visit the Lower Galleries where the gold and pottery collections are displayed. The galleries themselves are very modern and are a welcome change to the Old-World atmosphere of the collections. The museum is open daily, except Sunday and holidays, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is P50 for adults and P30 for students and children.

At the Cultural Center of the Philippines, one can find the Museo ng Kalinangang Pilipino, which is home to archeological and Islamic pieces, Asian musical instruments and works of contemporary Filipino artists. Admission fee is P20 for adults and P10 for students. It is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except on Monday. The Contemporary Art Museum (Center for Visual Arts) is located on the fourth floor of CCP. At the Financial Center of the CCP Complex is the GSIS Museum and Archives, which displays masterpieces by famous painters and sculptors such as Amorsolo, Ocampo, Alcuaz, Orlina and Abueva. The museum opens at 8:45 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m., with a two-hour break from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. It is closed on Sunday and Monday. Admission is free.

You can also visit the Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue. It is known for the dioramas depicting our country's history. It also houses paintings of artists from the 19th century to the present. You can also see the display on the evolution of the Filipino dress. Museum hours are as follows: guided tours, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (Tuesday and Friday); taped tours, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (Tuesday-Sunday); nonguided tours, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Tuesday-Sunday). Adults are charged P55, while students and children, P35.

The Lopez Memorial Museum is located at the ground floor of the Benpres Building, corner of Meralco Avenue and Tektite Road, Pasig City. Its art collection includes many works of Luna, Hidalgo, Amorsolo and other Filipino artists. It also has a wide collection of Filipiniana books and documents and memorabilia of Dr. Jose Rizal. It is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Admission fee for adults is P70, for high school and college students P60 and for elementary students P50.

University museums

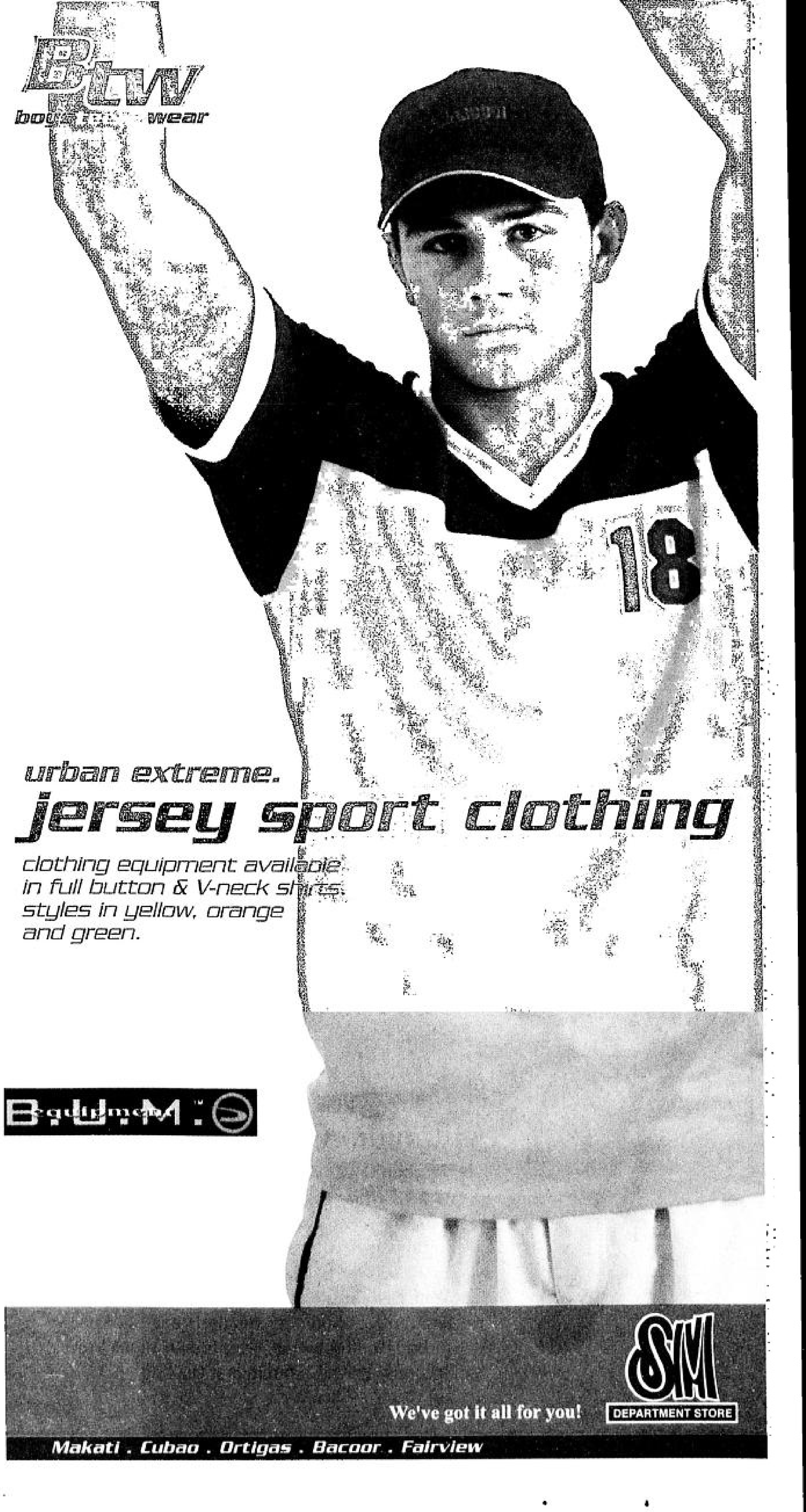
Other interesting places to see are the university museums and galleries.

The University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences is the country's oldest museum. It has a large and extensive collection of flora, fauna, rock and mineral specimens, physics and medico-legal materials, pharmaceutical specimens, paintings and sculpture, religious images and ceramics, ethnographic artifacts, coins, medals, rare books and memorabilia. Its art collection includes Lunas and Hidalgos. In fact, before one enters the museum, located at the ancient UST Main Building, one finds art everywhere: the magnificent sculptures by the Italian Francesco Monti (who taught at UST) atop the building, the Rolando Llamas mural depicting the history of UST at the lobby, and as one ascends the grand UST wooden staircase to proceed to the Mezzanine where the Museum is, the murals by Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Galo Ocampo depicting the missionary work of the Dominicans. UST's College of Fine Arts gave birth to the modern art movement in the Philippines and the representative works of this movement—by Manansala, Lorenzo, Edades and other artists who were UST faculty members—are in the Museum. Museum hours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday. Adults can get in for P30 and students for P20. UST students and alumni have free admission. Unfortunately, the museum is closed for the summer for renovation.

The De La Salle Art Gallery is located on the ground floor of the Library Building. Besides the regular exhibitions of paintings, prints and photographs, it shows alternative works from the likes of Agnes Arellano, Gerardo Tan and Katya Guerrero. Displays may be viewed during school days. Admission is free.

The Ateneo Art Gallery has acquired through the years a collection of various and distinct pieces, from traditional to modern works. It has in its permanent collection sculptures by Abueva, Lamberto and Hechanova. Viewing hours are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on school days and 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. Admission is free.

The UP Vargas Museum charges UP students P10 and others P15. It has several galleries showcasing different artworks of late 19th-century artists, the deans of the UP School of Fine Arts and National Artists. The third floor lobby displays the sculpture collection. The museum is open from Monday to Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m.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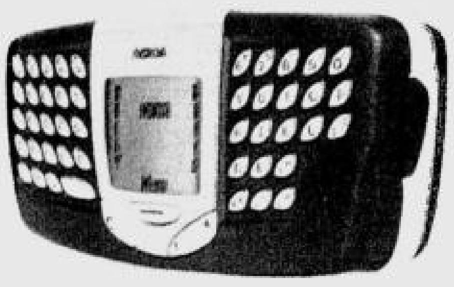

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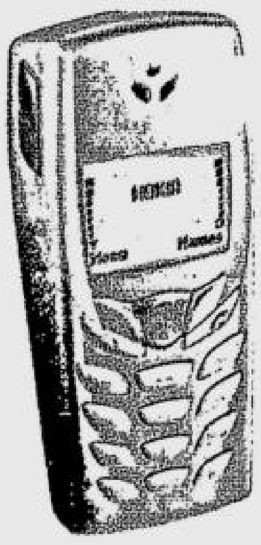

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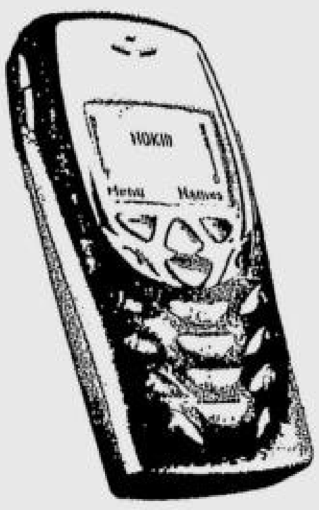

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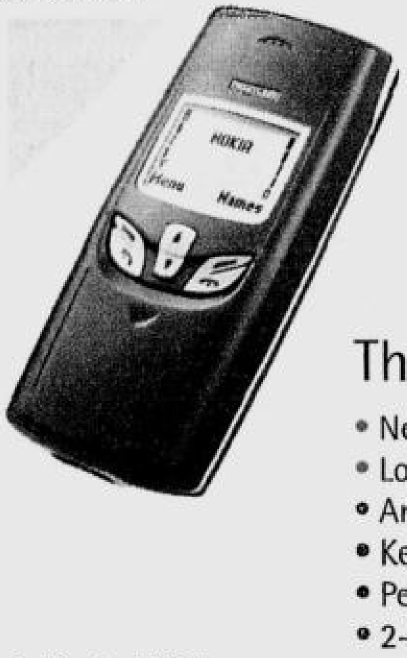

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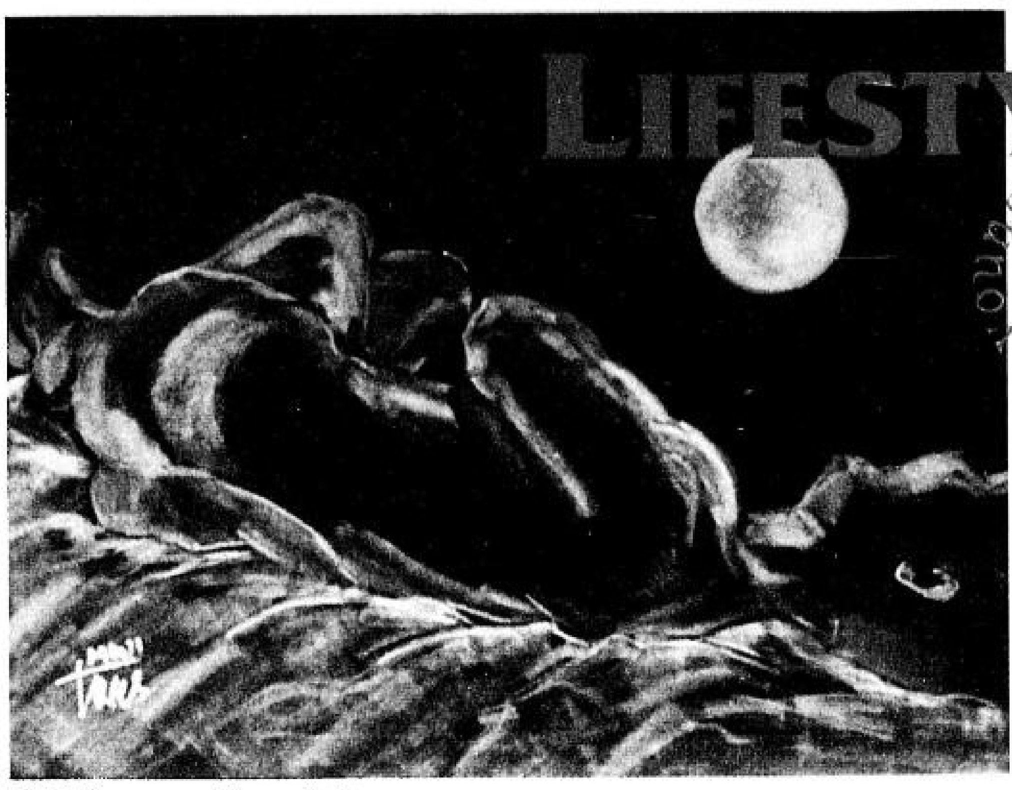


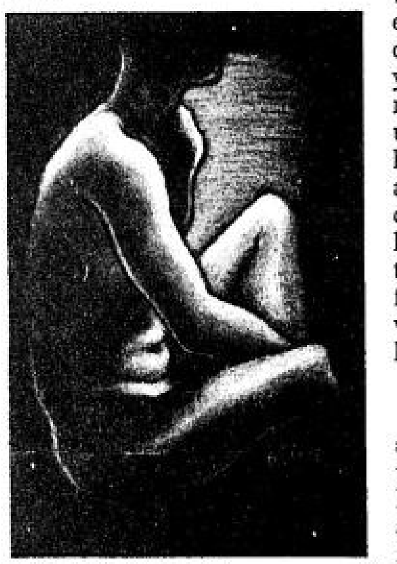
TRES Roman, pastel on velour

How I posed nude and survived the ordeal

The writer dares to pose nude for some of today's more exciting young artists and finds himself transformed by the miracle of art into a thing of beauty—and a joy forever?

BY Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento

THE CHALLENGE: 2bU! needed someone to pose nude for a group of artists and then write about the experience. My response: Yes.



SAM Penaso, pastel on paper

I think the request spoke to my adventurous side. Perhaps it spoke to my ego—the idea was tinged with glamour ("I will be immortalized as art!"). I even suggested the final artworks could be titled, "Handsome Naked Young Man," but Lito Zulueta, the Arts and Design subsection editor, looked very unconvinced.

Of course, I had worries. The whole world was going to see my, er, shortcomings. After all, you can't go nude without showing your, uhm, equipment. What if my equipment would start to "act up"? Sometimes those things have a mind of their own! I was also worried if the place would be cold since every guy knows what low temperatures could do to their equipment. Also, I am a fidgety person. How in the world was I supposed to stay still for hours on end?

Just do it

I arrived early at the house, aptly located in bohemian Malate, where the session would be held. The artists and their amiable manager, Delan Robillos, filed in one at a time as his lovely

HOW/ p.D4

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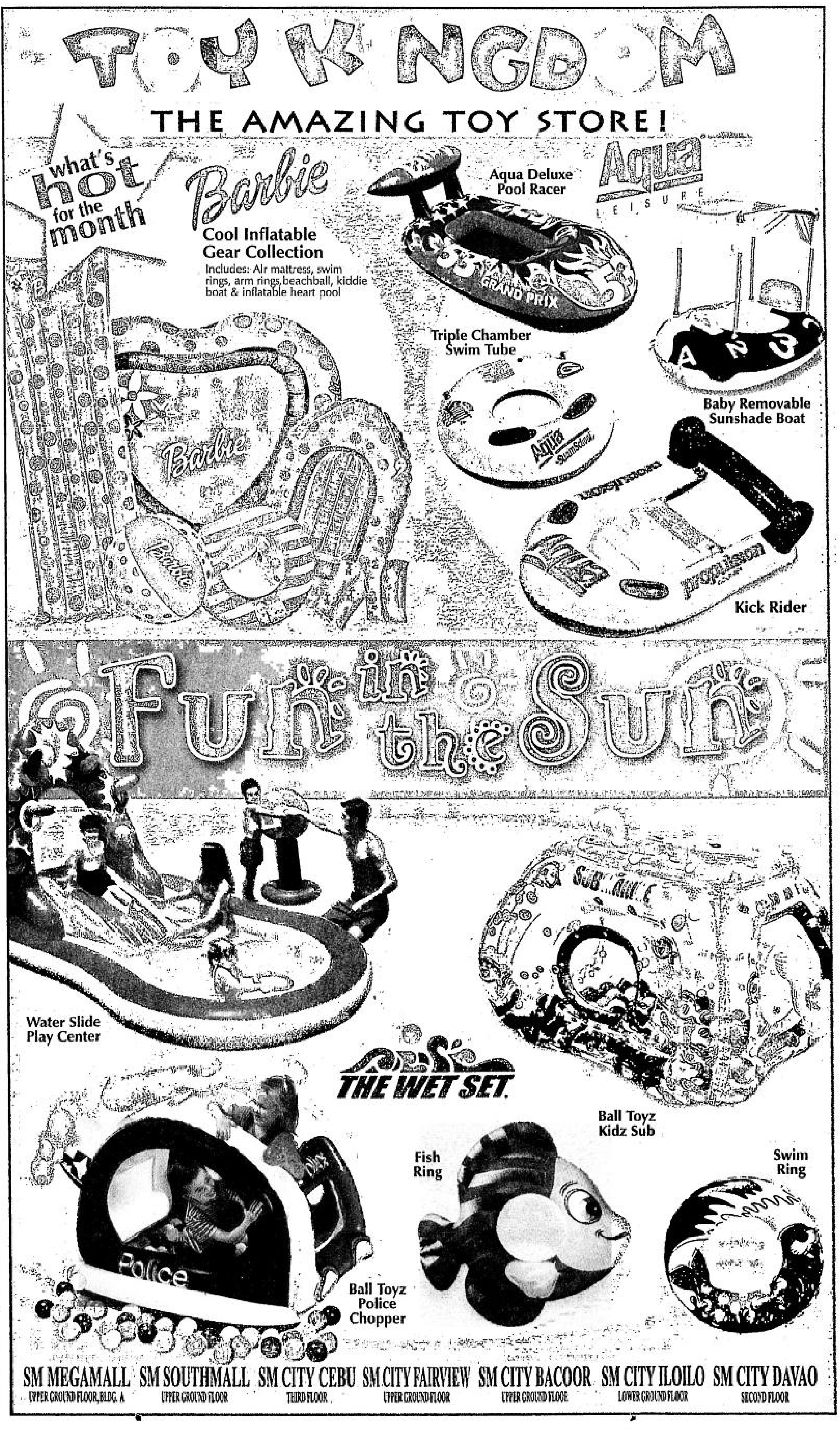
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Museo Pambata
Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila

If you're an aspiring painter, you may wish to attend the advanced painting workshop by the Luntiang Daigdig Artists (Lunda) every Wednesday and Thursday, 2-5 p.m.

Call 523-1797 to 98 during office hours.

Gallery 101
2/F Kaimo Building, 101 Quezon Ave. corner Sto. Domingo, QC

Beginners and advanced summer art workshops on drawing and painting headed by Pol A. Mesina Jr., with Fernando B. Sena as workshop adviser, to be held on Wednesdays until May 22.

Call Jeff Pineda or Agnes Romero at 410-0159.

Aheadstart Child Development Center
72 San Rafael St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Drawing, painting still life, landscape, seascape and portraits are part of this summer workshop to be held on Tuesdays until May 21. The workshop will be headed by Pol A. Mesina Jr.

Call Susan Cobarrubias at 631-9548.

God's Little Angels Development Center Inc.
265 Sunset Drive, Brookside Hills Subdivisions, Cainta, Rizal

Artist-instructor Pol A. Mesina Jr. will conduct workshops for kids, teenagers and adults on Saturdays until May 25.

Call Leddie Agoncillo at 655-2517 or 647-4504.

Ayala Museum
G/F old Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati

Decorative Arts on Wednesdays, from April 17 to May 15; Basic Drawing 1 on Thursdays, from May 9 to June 6; Beginner's Watercolor on Saturdays, from May 11 to June 29; and Ikebana on Wednesdays, May 29 to June 26.

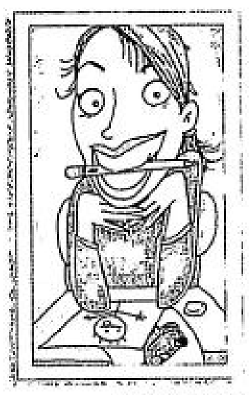
Escuela sa Museo also offers various courses for children. Call Christy Monastrial at 810-8407.

Who is Steph Bravo?

COUNTLESS people have e-mailed us in the desire to find out who is behind the zany and colorful caricatures that bring life to our articles. Here's the answer to your request.

Steph Bravo, art wizard extraordinaire, discovered her love for drawing when she was a child. Her first canvas? The walls of her house. She soon outgrew that and started drawing cartoons and painting still life in watercolor. After graduating from the University of the East with a degree in Fine Arts major in Advertising, Steph began illustrating children's books. It was in 1998 that she began to bring color to the lives of the readers of the INQUIRER. Steph dreams of one day having her own home studio.

Her message for aspiring artists: "Read art books. That's a good way to stay updated and to pick up techniques." Asked to describe her artwork in one word, Steph said with a smile on her face, "Wacky."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Confessions of a non-artist

By Pam Pastor

WHEN my artist-friends tell me about their frustration with writing, I tell them about my wistfulness to draw well. This is not an attempt at scratching each other's backs—it's the plain truth.

I don't have the hand for drawing—and I probably never will. This I first realized during my preschool years, when my crayon buddies made masterpieces out of coloring book pages. They made perfect pictures, coloring with strokes toward just one direction and always within the lines while I produced one disaster after another.

In my desire to improve my artistic abilities, I took art lessons with my cousins when I was a kid. While they moved on to make glorious paintings that now hang in their living rooms (and even ours), I never got past the drawing-oblong-people-with-pencil stage. And even these poor pencil creations made my art teachers scratch their heads in near-surrender. To put it bluntly, they looked horrible.

In grade school art class, I became the teacher's unfortunate comic relief—year after year after year. In fifth grade, we were supposed to weave baskets out of paper. The first step was to coax magazine pages into thin rolls that would be used to make the basket. My classmates made perfect, smooth thinner-than-pens rolls while I went to school bringing along pathetic, crumpled, big, cone-shaped pieces of paper. My teacher—that witch—laughed out loud when she saw them. I wanted to disappear.

Every year, the process was the same. My attempts at artistry would just bring laughable results.

It's no wonder my relatives never guess right when it's my turn to draw during our Pictionary marathons.

When I worked for a website for a year, I got closest to our two graphic designers. One afternoon, they attempted to teach me about the wonders of Adobe Photoshop. But they soon gave up.

Genetic

I can probably blame my lack of artistry on my mother's genes. Her teachers went nuts trying to figure out her art projects, too.

As I grew up, I learned a way to dance around my weakness. I tried mastering drawing a few things for emergency purposes (think clip arts stored in my brain). My attempts at bikini-clad women, pineapples and islands failed, but hey, I make a pretty mean Snoopy. While my classmates would draw when bored in class, I wrote poems and stories. And while I can't draw, I can make pretty nifty collages and scrapbooks (you can ask my ex-boyfriends).

A couple of semesters ago, our Humanities professor asked us to bring illustration boards and pastel color to class. We were to draw our self-portraits. I planned to make a joke out of it, smearing my board with colors without really thinking about it while my classmates watched in horror. I heard echoes of "What are you doing?" "*Ano ka ba!*" "*Baliw talaga 'to.*" They probably thought I had gone bonkers. Then I found out that a large chunk of our final grade depended on the self-portraits. Holy crap. I did not intend to do a repeat performance as a Humanities student. Panicking, I covered the whole board with different colors then covered the whole mess with black pastel (this meant stealing some of my classmates' since mine wasn't enough.) Then I wrote a poem and etched it into the board. "I am blackness/the colors are within..." The colorful letters almost looked glow-in-the-dark in contrast with the completely black board. It looked fine to me—but for some reason, my classmates kept glancing at my board with morbid curiosity (perhaps similar to your fascination while watching a man about to be plowed down by a huge car in one of those shocking reality videos). Most of my classmates seemed to be satisfied with their work—and they had reason to be. As the boards were hauled off to the faculty room, I crossed my fingers and prayed for God to give my teacher a sense of humor.

Weeks later, the boards were returned. Out of 30, I got an acceptable 22, along with a note that said, "Interesting concept, but this is not a self-portrait." The board is still on my bedroom wall today.

I have to admit, it's embarrassing to be 21 and not be able to draw a proper person. Sticks, I can manage. Anything beyond that is unfathomable for me.

I admit, part of the attraction of being able to draw well is the license to call yourself an artist. There's something about the brooding creative types that's just absolutely sexy. A paint smear here and there is enough to make some people's knees go weak (okay, maybe I don't want to be stuck with those types.)

One last stab

This summer, I told myself that I could do with one last (for the meantime, at least) courageous stab at being a halfway decent artist. I bribed, begged, wheedled and okay, bullied Ritche, INQUIRER Libre's in-house artist (and my No. 1 enemy), into giving me a crash course on drawing.

He started talking about light, shades, strokes, shapes and I started to surf the Net. The thing with me was, while I wanted to learn to draw, I didn't really have the patience for a full lecture. He got my attention back with a dramatic, "*Sige, mag-*surf *ka na lang diyan.*"

He told me about finding shapes in anything that I wanted to draw. How a wine bottle wasn't just that—that it was a cylinder, a triangle and another cylinder combined. He showed me how to use lines and measurements between a person's features when drawing a face. He told me about the importance of shading. Yes, sure sounds like he taught me a great deal in just a short session, but the big question is: was I able to successfully apply it?

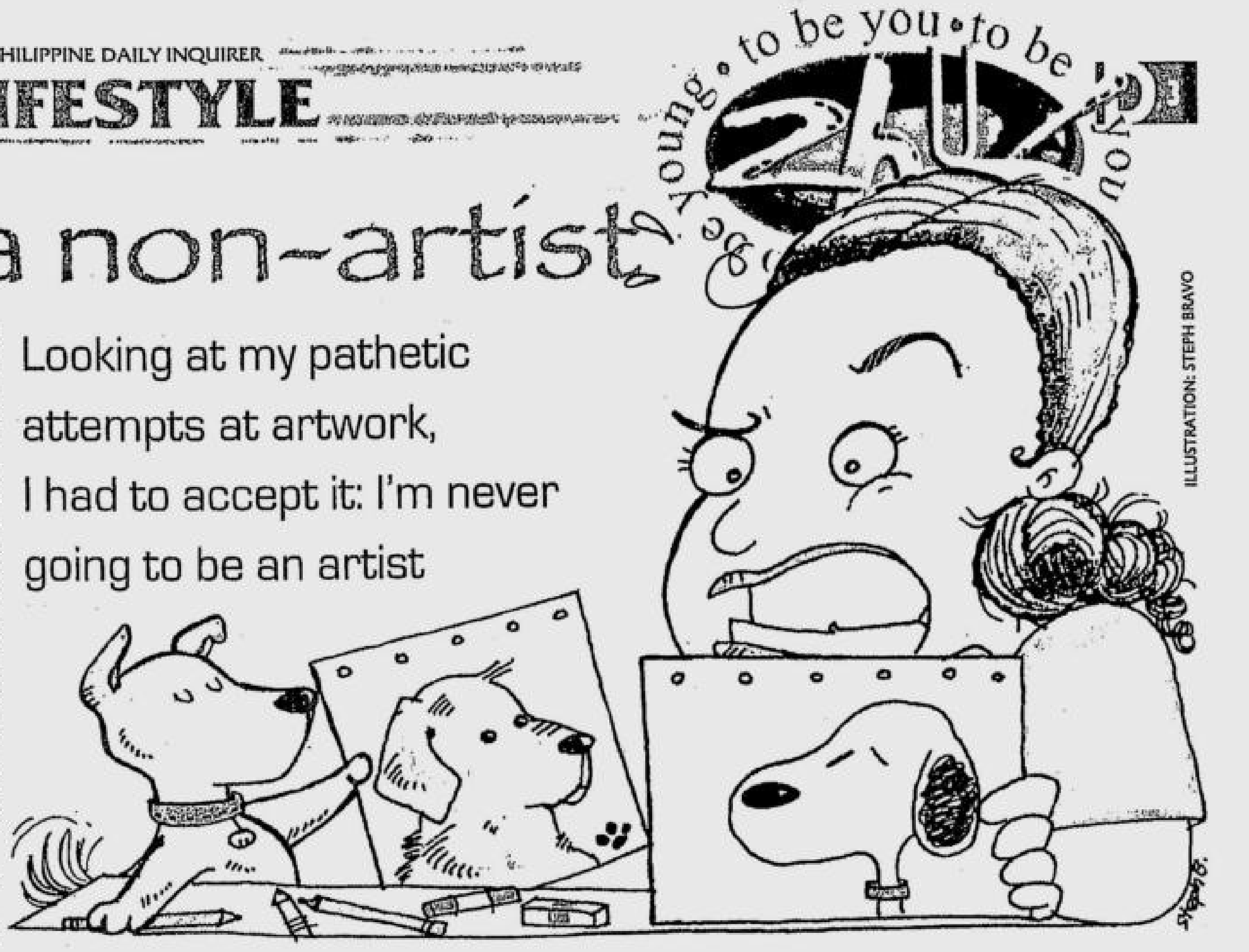
Ritche, bless his compassionate heart, tried to control his laughter as I struggled to draw a realistic-looking eye, a plastic container and the rough outline of a sumo wrestler. But looking at my pathetic attempts at artwork, I couldn't help but guffaw. He finally burst out laughing. Yep. I'm never going to be an artist.

I could choose to assault your senses by printing some of my drawings along with this article but I don't want to be cruel.

Oh, sod it. Just give me back my keyboard.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Looking at my pathetic attempts at artwork, I had to accept it: I'm never going to be an artist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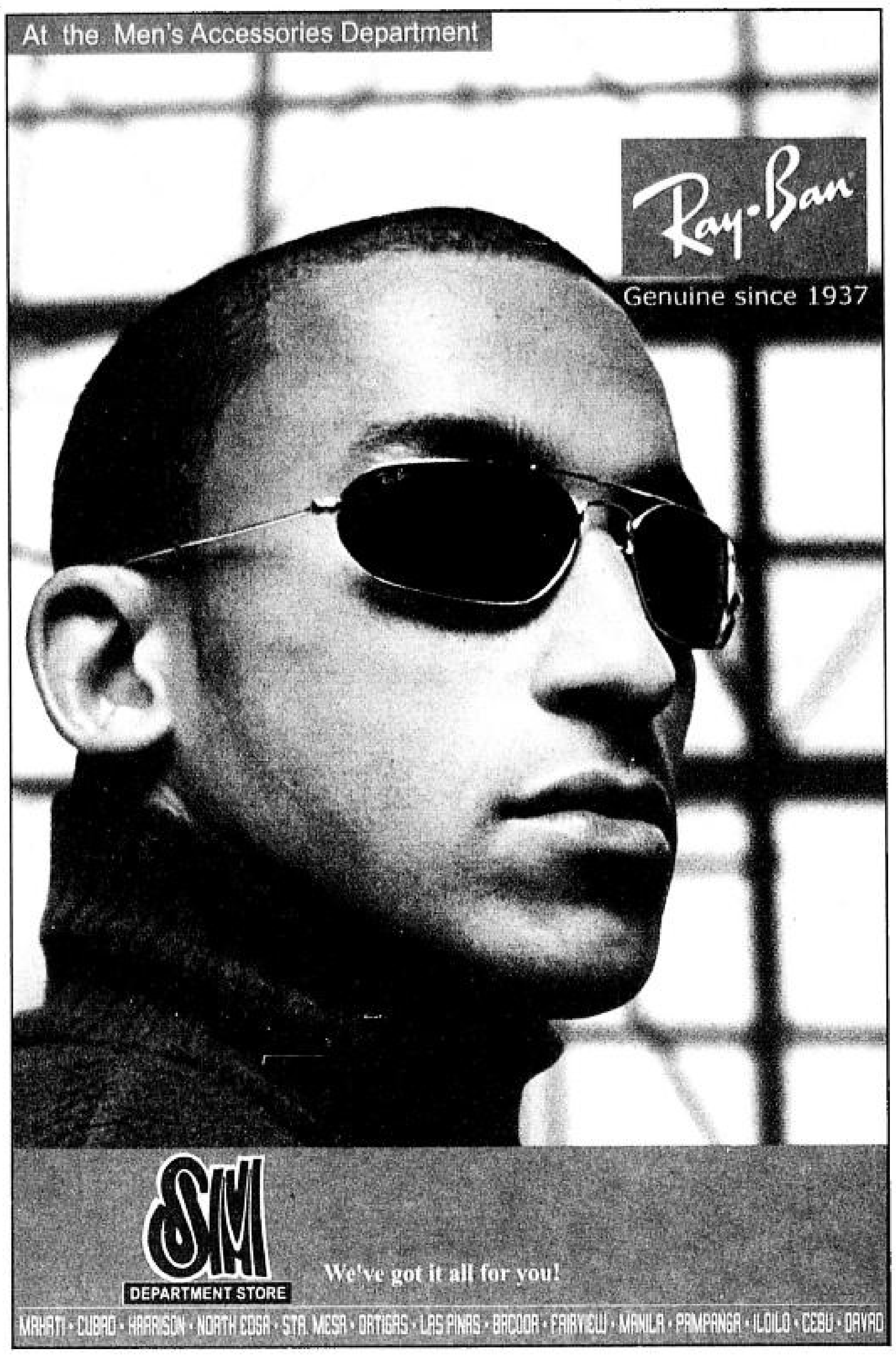
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How I posed nude and survived the ordeal

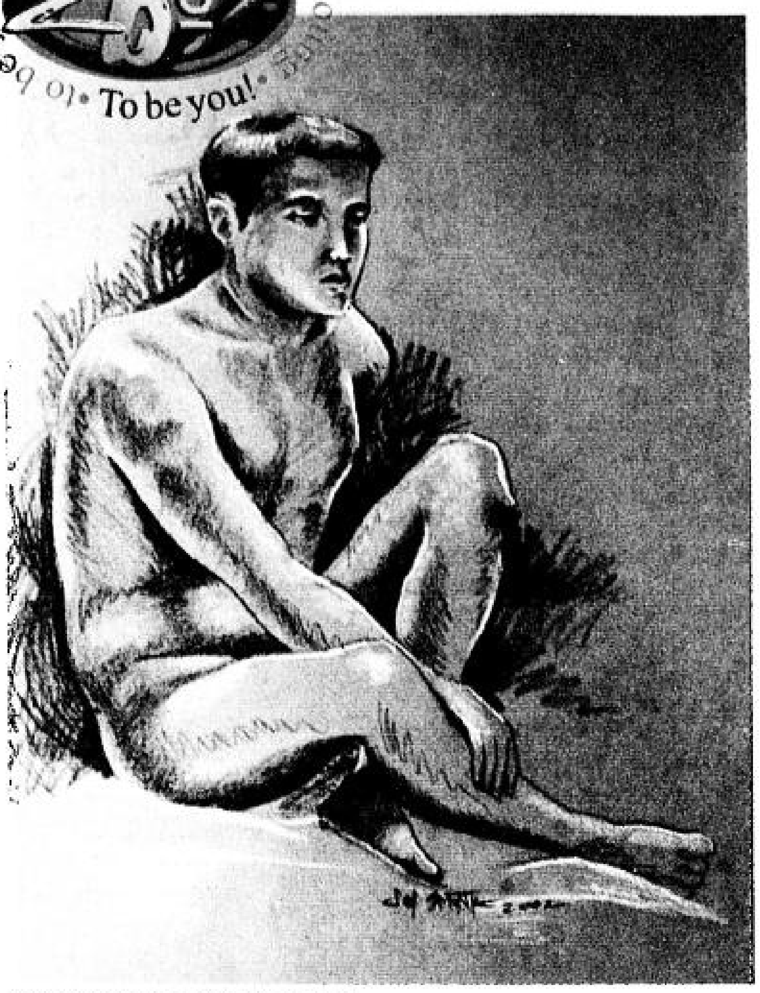
From page D1

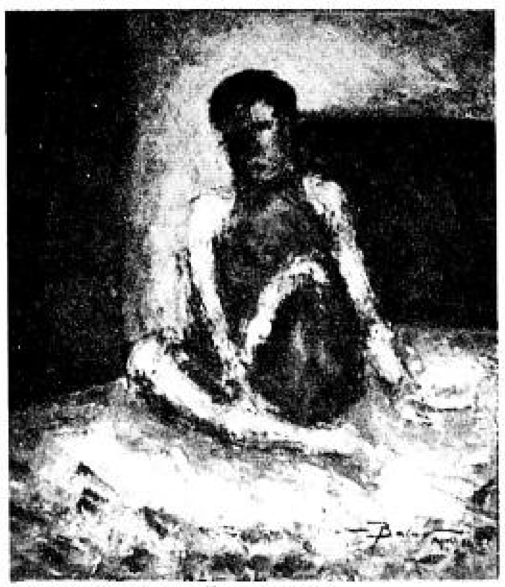
wife, Jae, made introductions. I made small talk with artists Sam Penaso and Tres Roman as they showed me some of their works. I liked Sam's distorted human figures in his "Hubog" series. People with a sense of humor, irony and whimsy would love Tres' series "Tribute to Freud."

I may not have any background on the visual arts, but that doesn't mean I can't appreciate what these artworks have to offer. "And that's what our group The Artery is here to do," said Delan, "to demystify 'art' and make it accessible to everyone."

Merienda was served, but I had too many butterflies in my stomach to eat. We proceeded to a room with a bed laid with white sheets. I disrobed with only a *malong* to preserve what little modesty was left. I was shown what pose to take and, with no fanfare at all, I slipped the *malong* off. Surprisingly, I never felt "exposed" or embarrassed. The artists immediately got to work and everyone was very accommodating.

Red wine was served and that really helped me relax. It was very quiet and all I could hear was the "skritch, skritch, skritch" of the artists' tools (palette knife) or medium (oil, charcoal, pastel) on the materials they used (paper, canvas, velour). I stayed as absolutely still as I could. I didn't want to compromise the artists' works.


JEF Samonte, pastel on paper


ANTON Balao, oil on canvas

The artists were very kind and kept telling me to let them know when I wanted to rest. Pretty soon, Delan and Jae started a conversation with me, which was a lifesaver since I was getting sleepy. Plus it distracted me from the muscle soreness I was beginning to feel.

I was pleased with myself when they said 35 minutes had already passed. "I've been still for that long!" I had expected my muscles to scream murder five minutes into posing. We took a break and the artists did touch-ups while I shook off the kinks that were starting to form. I peeked at the different colors and shapes that were beginning to take form. I was very excited.

After that first break, I was less rigid and asked all sorts of questions about the artists' craft. What do artists feel when they give away or sell their art? Don't they miss their works? They had pretty insightful answers and it was interesting to find out that, similar to writer's block, artists can get artist's block as well.

Amazing

After I did the first pose for another hour, I was able to look at the artworks. Some of them were able to execute two works with different styles from my first pose alone! To see all those different styles from the five artists was really inspiring and amazing. All those reds, blues and other hues in different strokes and lines really made one think of the many ways one could view just one thing.

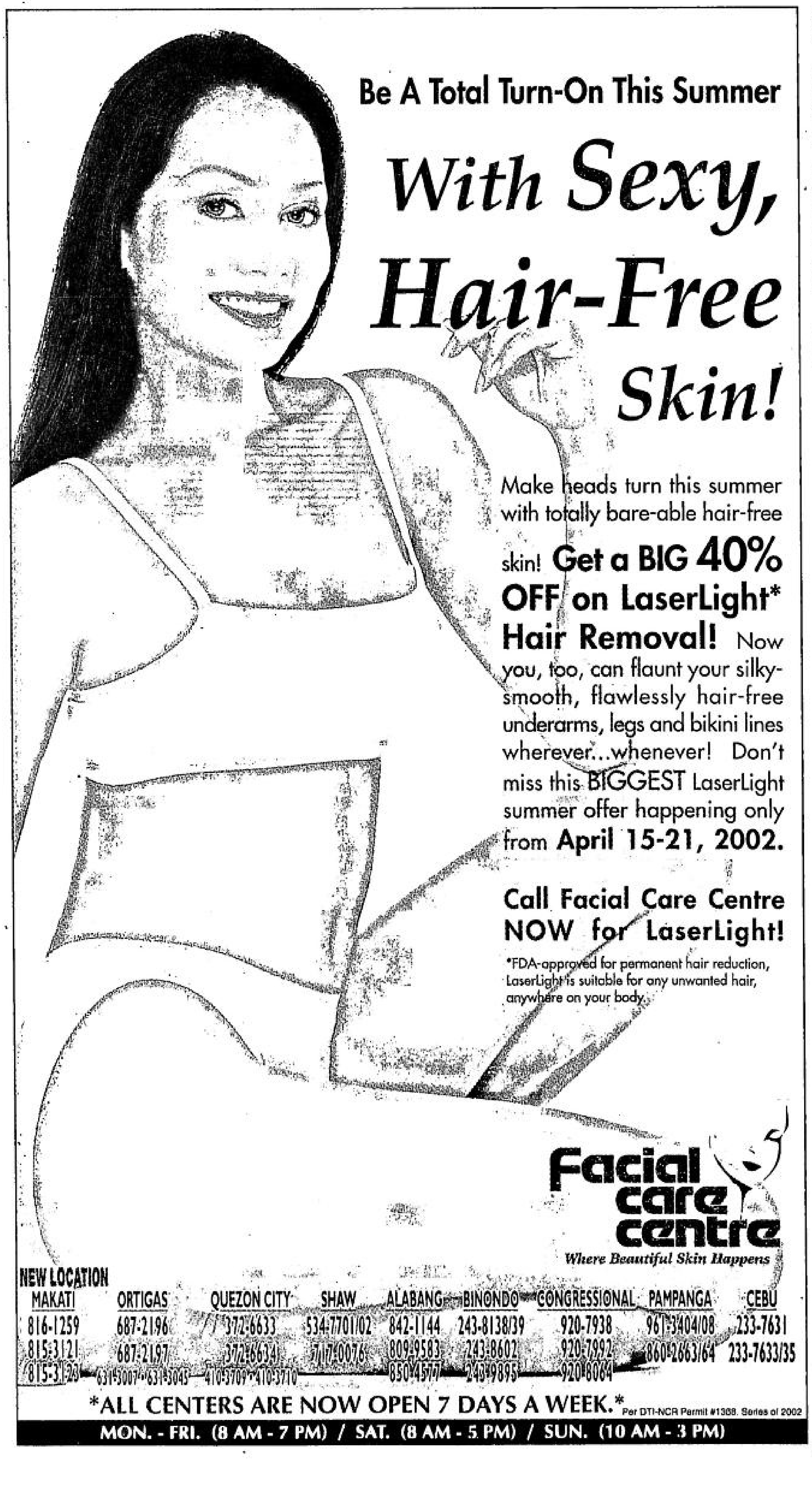
We took a longer break this time since the artists were visibly drained. You could see exhaustion on their faces. My second pose was easier since I was made to lie down. "So you can rest!" they all chimed in.

The artists and I both got our second winds and we were seriously back to work. Our conversations turned to everything and anything under the sun, which helped the next two hours fly by. I got to find out the rate for nude models. It starts at P400 per hour for unknowns and as high as P2,000 for the professional models.

When we were finally done, I took a few minutes to gaze at all the artworks laid on the floor and table. According to Delan, the total worth of all five artists with an artwork each was P80,000. The total output that day was 15 pieces.

But their worth in money isn't even the issue. I kept looking at the works and it was a very strange, yet pleasing moment. Even though I kept thinking "This is me?," I was tickled pink with what I saw. I was exhausted, sore and famished, but I got a fuzzy, warm feeling all over me. And the muscle kinks disappeared.

Call The Artery at 522-9401. E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com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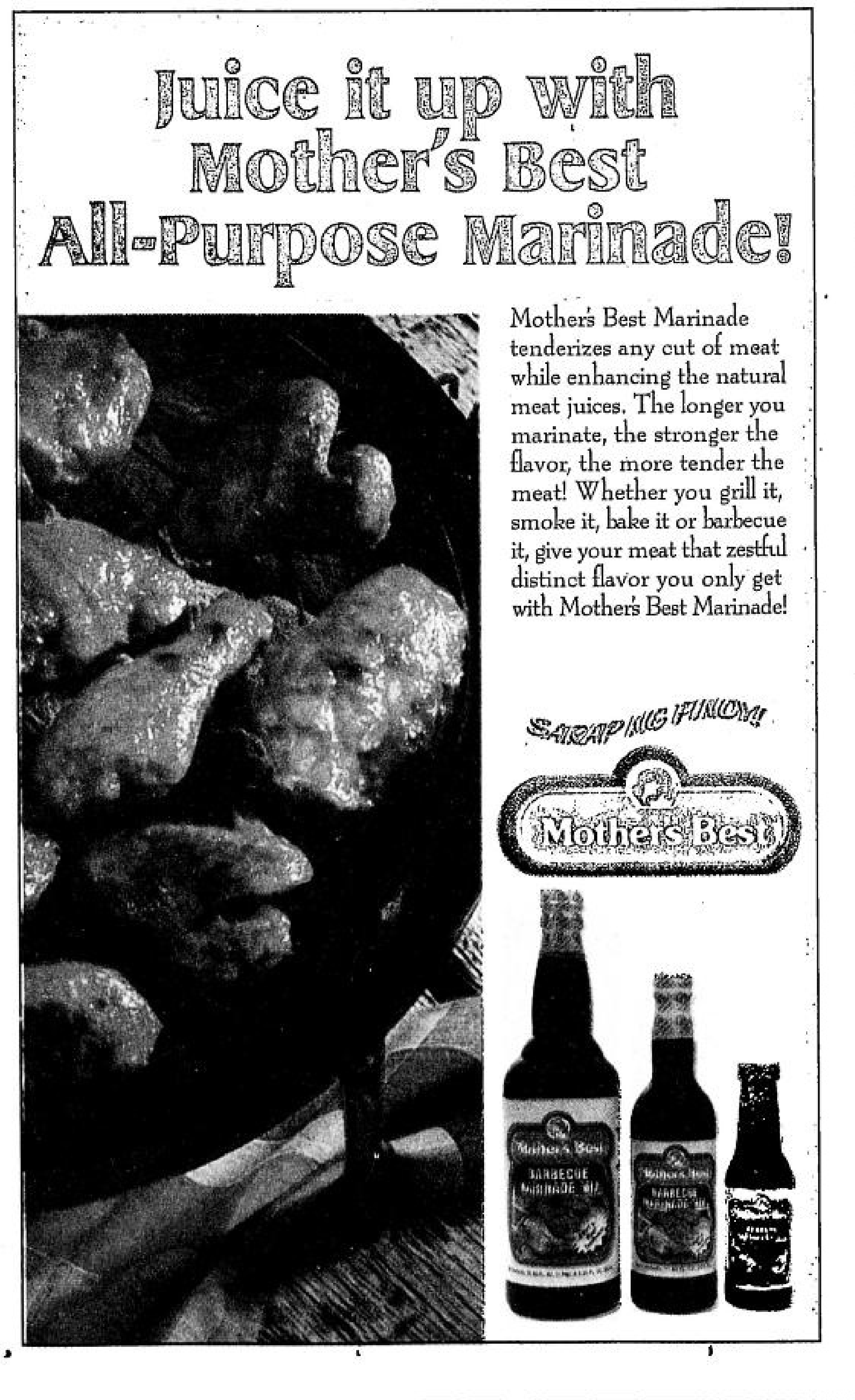
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